

THE READER

A REVIEW OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

No. 153, Vol. VI.

Saturday, December 2, 1865.

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SATIRE.

WE lack a satirist. Not that the spirit of satire is extinct; but it no longer clothes itself in the garb of imperishable verse: and satire in prose approaches to libel; for that which cannot plead the exigencies of metre to excuse its bitterness must submit to be fettered by a less capricious law. The prose satires of modern times have, moreover, been amusing productions in themselves, irrespective of any hidden meaning. Not unfrequently they have been ostensibly addressed to the capacity of children: just as under some Eastern despotism, the real author of *Æsop's Fables* was content to ascribe folly and wickedness to the inarticulately-speaking beasts alone. The irresponsible authority which became vested in so many obscure seigneurs in the Middle Ages produced somewhat a similar phenomenon at one time in Europe; but apologues of this sort were never very popular with the independent spirits of the West, and as soon as authority became centralized and wit encouraged at polished Courts, the satires of classical writers were as much imitated as any other of the remains of antiquity.

But that same disposition which dashes the draughts of modern hellebore with the milk of human kindness has prevented the growth of an indigenous school of satire. And cogent reasons lie in the constitution of modern society. Satire, to be thoroughly appreciated, requires a small and select circle, of which every member is dependent upon the respect of the others. If the victim of Horace or Juvenal could have ordered out his litter, arrived at Athens, and entered a fresh society all in a few hours, the joke would have been carried away along with his travelling equipage. If there had not been courtiers like Racine to be literally slain by a look of the Great King, we should have been still in want of Boileau and Molière. If the object of attack had not been tied as it were to a tree, round which indeed he might move, but from which he could not be altogether loosed, the quiver of the archer would have been filled with far more darts than he could ever hope to exhaust; and in default of the noble game of man, he would, like the later givers of shows in the Roman amphitheatres, have had to put up with creatures for whom a headless dart might suffice.

As we have become much more tender of animals, and forbid all unnecessary addition to the burdens they bear for us, it would have been extraordinary if there had not been some reaction of the same spirit towards our own image. It is not so very long since a literary veteran, who had deserved the epithet of "kind" from one who was by no means untouched by the bitter of criticism, was condemned to pay a heavy fine for the use of language which would, no doubt, have been thought perfectly fair in the days when George III. was King, but which our generation has long outgrown, together with its six-bottle men, and its prandial pledgings of the reigning monarch. The daily journals may, it is true, to some extent, perform the office of an Aristophanes; and there are others which, it is said, are by no means unwilling to make any unlucky wight who enters the sanctuary of any one of

the Muses without the necessary preparations suffer for his temerity. But Macaulay's "inimitable satirist of the vices of the great" exists only in the puff collusive, and here, too, there is a tendency to become more and more impersonal. Private vice or private eccentricity is considered no longer a fair object for public remark, so long as the conventionalities of society are not ostentatiously violated.

The weapons of ridicule come, however, naturally to so many hands, that, until we are all living in Philansteries or Familisteries, we cannot hope to see them altogether laid aside. And a class of objects has lately come into existence, that have afforded to many ingenious persons precisely the kind of butts which those would desire who revel in attacking some individual under the guise of an abstract personality. If Lord Coke had lived in the present day, we doubt if he would have uttered his famous apophthegm, that corporations have no soul for the very worst purpose to which a soul can be put. Sure we are that, so far as in him lay, even if, like a more recent Head of the Law, he had been obliged to deny the possibility of applying eternal punishment to Boards of Directors, he would have inflicted upon many of them such penalties as are very grievous even for corporate bodies to endure prior to their dissolution. It is not, however, from a legal point of view, but rather as to the comparisons they may be made to suggest, that we are just now disposed to turn attention to these and kindred societies. The possibility of earning immortal reputation as a satirist, by attacking institutions rather than individuals, is shown by the instance of Lucian. As it fell to his lot to cover with his span of life almost the exact period which Gibbon declares was that in which the condition of the human race was most happy and prosperous, he had no tyrant to gratify or admonish by holding up to him the mirror of his predecessor's follies. Attached in fact to no Court or patron, with no audience but such as his writings could procure him, he was compelled to cast about for subjects which were at once equally well known and equally capable of being made ludicrous to all the subjects of the empire. The machinery of trustees and of corporate bodies was common enough in the second century. But they were jealously fenced about by the majesty the Emperors demanded, if not for themselves, at all events, for the law. Even the colleges of priests, who lived upon the sacrifices of superstition, were still too powerful to be treated otherwise than tenderly. But, as so often happens, it is more easy to beard masters than their servants, and the gods of Olympus furnished to Lucian themes which were universally welcome, and persons who could not revenge themselves.

Public religion at that time was in a very singular state. The old gods were openly worshipped, and as openly denied. Their images still occupied the most sacred shrines; but the Jove of Phidias had already been deprived of two of his golden locks, and Neptune of his silver trident, without any chance of indemnification. Some deities only got one dinner in the year, and that from some foreign pilgrim, who knew no better. Christianity was as yet far from being in a position to seize upon the temple lands, and stigmatize Pagan ceremonies with the odious name of

magic. The Roman world was enjoying itself. It might have trembled sometimes at the Sibylline oracles which foretold its fate, but it was very willing to be amused: so the gods, their councils, their intrigues, and their perplexities were all displayed for the amusement of the profane.

There might be in all this a tacit compliment to established authority. The gods had for many centuries tried to govern the world. The Homeric Jupiter is absurd as God, but not so as a ruler who does his best. Men and their affairs occupy his whole attention, and we rather pity than despise. But in Lucian's day, the petty squabbles of nations, which used to interest so much the Olympian conclave, had all died out. The established order of things had succeeded. Jupiter had been for long like the astronomer in "Rasselas," who calculated the risings of the Nile so accurately, that at last he thought the phenomenon would cease to appear if he rested for a moment from his labours. His astonishment at finding that mortals are beginning to consider whether it is worth while to offer the gods any more sacrifices can only be equalled by that of directors who find the public unwilling to take shares in the hopes of a fabulous dividend. And he consoles himself much in the same way as promoters, by reflecting that there will always be fresh dupes blind to the arguments of those who really know what they are about.

Lucian has been generally compared to Voltaire; but his real position is the Dante of the second century. He traverses the three realms, which were all he had heard of, Earth, Heaven, and Hell. It was not his fault that he found nothing serious in any of them. It is much to his credit that he could revere such demigods as Demona. The satire of Dante is savage and remorseless; but Lucian thinks, with perhaps greater knowledge of human nature, that kings are sufficiently punished, like Megapenthes, by being denied the draughts of Lethe, or like Philip of Macedon, by having to cobble old shoes, and female viragoes like Semiramis, if they are compelled to get up foul linen. Dante, moreover, would be too exact for this age in his knowledge of the ineffable; and the misdeeds of the powers that be provoke now no more than a passing smile. The revelations of the Divorce Court prevent one class of society from being able to throw a stone at another. Reflections upon physical infirmities would recoil upon the author. We are too much bound up in each other's prosperity to make our wit malicious. The iambic is rapidly losing its reputation for bitterness. The chief poet of our day has pronounced against such a desecration of his favourite metre. It is an age of "getting over" things. It is not only ears polite that are never troubled with the mention of a certain place: that is kept in the background altogether. Even what Carlyle calls the true hell of an Englishman, failure, is smoothed over by our Americanized ideas of bankruptcy. Satire, to be genuine, must ultimately rest upon concealed power. If a despot took care that a white-haired peer was a rarity, the debates of noble lords upon the cod-fisheries or the King of Abyssinia would be exquisitely ludicrous to those whose obscurity protected them. If the eternal punishment of actors, as a matter of course, or of ladies, because of the ex-

travagance of their dresses, appeared to us a natural retribution, as it did to Tertullian, our indignation at the follies of the theatre and the sex might drive us into verse. The sneer of Mephistopheles would lose its savour, if we did not momentarily believe in the spirit that commanded it; but the philosophy which demands proof of everything, and resolves all action into its component parts, will strip comedy as well as imposture of its mask, and we must not expect to unite the freedom of the man with the licence of the Saturnalia and the buffoonery of the slave.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

LIVES OF THE ENGINEERS.

Lives of Boulton and Watt: Principally from the Original Soho MSS., Comprising also a History of the Invention and Introduction of the Steam Engine. By Samuel Smiles. (Murray.)

WE give a hearty welcome to this new volume of Mr. Smiles's most agreeable and instructive biographies, and only grieve to hear that it is to be the last of the series of his "Lives of the Engineers."

The history of those Dioscuri of the heaven of invention, James Watt and Matthew Boulton, is set forth with the author's usual skill and pleasantness. Anecdotes and vivid descriptions of persons and places are dexterously interwoven with weighty facts, and with accounts of important experiments, while the story of the invention of the steam engine, and its introduction to the service of man, is told with a nerve and simplicity worthy of our old discoverers on the broad seas.

In the well-chosen, firmly-knit partnership of the celebrated engine-makers of Soho, Watt was the mind, the man of study, the master of machines; Boulton was the heart, the man of action and of the world, the master of men. The portraits of the two as exhibited in the volume before us are significant of the difference and of the harmony of their characters. Both have handsome faces, that of the one being marked with deep lines, contracted brows, and cavernous eyes, all instinct with thought and downwards bent. The countenance of Boulton, on the other hand, is erect, frank, bluff, and hearty, looking straight before him with an air of confidence and courage that half explains the good man's career of success.

The book opens well with the anecdote of Boulton's reply when asked by King George III. what he had been doing. It appears that he had been accustomed to supply the King with articles of ormolu, but ceased to show himself at Court when he gave up that branch of manufacture on entering into partnership with Watt. Some time after he appeared at the Royal levee, and was at once recognised by the King. "Ha! Boulton," said he, "it is long since we have seen you at Court. Pray what business are you now engaged in?" "I am engaged, your Majesty, in the production of a commodity which is the desire of Kings." "And what is that? What is that?" asked the King. "Power, your Majesty," replied Boulton, who proceeded to give a description of the great uses to which the steam engine was capable of being applied.

The first four chapters describe succinctly the painful steps and slow by which one brave mind after the other strove to obtain this mighty prize of Power, and strove for the most part in vain. Now that the conquest has been made, and man has the steam engine for his slave, it is sad to think of the laborious lives, the straining thoughts, the unfulfilled hopes, the sufferings from poverty and contumely, of men like the Marquis of Worcester, Sir Samuel Morland, Dr. Papin, and others. With honest and true hearts they pursued experiments that seemed to bring the promised discovery within their grasp, only to fail in

their lifelong endeavours. They were laughed at as mad projectors, they were decried as impious infringers upon the divine rights of nature, they were opposed by the holders of vested interests; their inventions were more than once destroyed; and often, when every obstacle had been overcome and their day of triumph dawned, their conception was snatched from them for the benefit of a stranger.

The knowledge of the capabilities of steam as an agent of motion is as old as the days of the Ptolemies, when Hero of Alexandria constructed a small engine, which is said to have acted precisely on the principle of what is known among mechanicians of the present day as "Barker's Mill." The thoughts of the ancients were good and solid, but they were unfledged. For want of wings, or some more potent carriers than a rare and scanty parchment or papyrus, fruitful ideas fell inert and lay unproductive. The printing press has brought a better fortune to us. The unsuccessful efforts of Worcester, Morland, and Papin, the inefficient achievements of Savery, Newcomen, and Calley, were not lost to posterity. Stored in books and pamphlets, and preserved in models, the time came when the thought and toil of his predecessors nourished in the mind of Watt a germ that on a certain day burst suddenly into the idea of a separate condenser—an idea that has been the parent of all the wonder-working powers of the steam engine of our day. So subtle are the operations of the mind that the very suddenness of conception surprised the inventor himself, unconscious of the premeditation that had led up to it, and he modestly attributed the success of his invention to "chance and the neglect of others." Yet he had been six years pondering over the subject. In 1759, when he was in his twenty-third year, his friend Robison, then twenty, suggested the subject to him. Watt soon became deeply interested in the study, devoting to it every moment that he could snatch from the toil of earning his daily bread. In 1763, the model of a Newcomen's engine used in the natural philosophy class of Glasgow University was, by the kindness of his friend, Professor Anderson, put into his hands.

To the study of this little machine, its small capabilities and its many defects, Watt applied all the strength of his ardent and powerful mind. That which restricted the Newcomen engines to a very small field of labour was the great waste of fuel, time, and power, caused by the alternate and incessant heating and cooling of the cylinder to produce condensation. To obviate this difficulty was the problem Watt strove to solve, and, after puzzling over it long and patiently, a remedy at length "flashed upon his mind at once and filled him with rapture."

He had gone to take a walk one Sunday afternoon on the Glasgow Green. "I was thinking," he told a friend many years afterwards, "upon the engine at the time, and had gone as far as far as the herd's house, when the idea came into my mind that as steam was an elastic body it would rush into a vacuum, and if a communication were made between the cylinder and an exhausted vessel it would rush into it, and might be there condensed without cooling the cylinder. I then saw that I must get rid of the condensed steam and injection water if I used a jet as in Newcomen's engine. Two ways of doing this occurred to me. . . . I had not walked further than the Golf House when the whole thing was arranged in my mind."

Celebrated as is the bath of Archimedes, this walk upon Glasgow Green was infinitely more momentous to mankind. The struggling instrument-maker, poor in pocket, weak in frame, the one fragile survivor of a family of five brethren, then and there discovered the secret which enabled him by further strenuous toil to endow the human race with a power, the measure of which is faintly estimated by one fact—namely, that already, "in Great Britain alone, it is equal to the manual labour of upwards of 400,000,000 of men, or more than double the

number of males supposed to inhabit the globe."

Much, however, yet remained to be done. After the intellectual strife which resulted in the happy thought of a separate condenser, other improvements, corollaries from this one, rapidly suggested themselves to the acute mind of the inventor. But then came the no less arduous and infinitely less stimulating conflict with brute matter. Mr. Smiles observes of the earlier inventors, that their want of that mechanical knowledge and manual skill by which the parts of a machine are accurately constructed and nicely adjusted, was one cause of their want of success.

Watt possessed the great advantage of a familiarity with tools, and from his practice as a mathematical instrument maker, he was extremely fastidious as to the just proportions and symmetry of the machines made for him. This exacting quality of his mind led, no doubt, to the great perfection which the steam engine attained in his lifetime, but it brought him many a heartache and much sore disappointment. He could find no craftsmen able or willing to do his work with adequate care and accuracy. Moreover, he was short of funds, and, consequently, of time, for something had to be done for the immediate support of his family—a necessity to which the great invention had to be postponed.

Nine years more of difficulty and doubt, approaching at times the verge of despair, were passed. Mr. Smiles commendably dwells upon every step of this toilsome journey towards success. It is well that every aspirant after greatness should know how little he will be able to achieve without indomitable perseverance and unremitting industry. The task was all the more severe for Watt, owing to his weak health, his constantly-recurring headaches, which made him often querulous and low-spirited. His connexion with Dr. Roebuck, of the Carron Iron Works, though terminated by the failure of that enterprising speculator, was the means of bringing Watt and Boulton together. The latter, who had himself been making experiments on the steam engine, was pleased with his new acquaintance, and encouraged him to proceed. It is pleasant to record the fact that the association of these two men in a scheme for the confection of the improved steam engine originated in feelings of personal regard. Though Boulton was the owner of a very large establishment at Soho, and so far a wealthy man, his capital was all engaged, and a commercial crisis which prevailed in the country at the commencement of the troubles in America made him cautious of entering upon fresh undertakings at that time. Writing to Watt, in 1769, Boulton declined a proposal then made of joining Roebuck and Watt, and said, "I was excited by two motives to offer you my assistance, which were love of you and love of a money-getting, ingenious project." Steam-power has developed the last-mentioned kind of love so largely among mankind, that it is really consolatory to find that in its beginnings cupidity only shared with a nobler human affection the glory of its inauguration. It was not till 1774, when Roebuck had failed and Boulton was able to have the manufactory of the engines conducted under his own eye at Soho, that Boulton and Watt came to terms, and the latter settled in Birmingham. Large workshops, skilful artisans, and an energetic master soon produced good effects in the production of better engines than had till then been made, and the commercial part of the scheme soon grew in importance. Disappointments, drawbacks, vexations, and annoyances, were encountered in plenty, but the demand for the new engines increased, especially among the Cornish miners. More business than he could do with safety to his health fell upon Watt. "I fancy," he writes, "that I must be cut in pieces, and a portion sent to every tribe in Israel." At one time he said he must retire to save his life. Pecuniary embarrassments at Soho added to his trouble. Forty thousand pounds were expended by

Boulton on the manufacture of the steam engine before he obtained any profits. His other dealings were very large, and so severe was the drain of money, that at one time the third partner, Fothergill, proposed to wind up the concern. Boulton's brave and cheerful spirit was, however, a match for all the difficulties that threatened to overwhelm him, aggravated as they were by the deep despondency of both his partners. Infringement of their patents was one of the hardest trials which the firm had to struggle against. At length the tide turned in their favour, and in 1789 they were prosperous men. After this, Watt's querulousness left him. As Mr. Smiles quaintly observes, "Prosperity agreed with him, as it does with most people. It is a condition easy to bear, and Watt took to it kindly. As years passed over his head he became placid, contented, and cheerful. His health improved, and he enjoyed life in his old age, as he had never done in his youth. He ceased longing for the rest of the grave, and gave over cursing his inventions."

We cannot, of course, attempt a complete analysis of this valuable and entertaining book, but must send the reader to the volume itself for particulars of Watt's many inventions, for the history of the children and their friends, of the two partners, and memoirs of some of their workmen. No prominent feature in the life or character of the two men seems to have been omitted. The contrast presented in the portraiture of their lives and dispositions is really dramatic, and we think that the public will receive this as the best of Mr. Smiles's biographies. It is profusely and charmingly illustrated with engravings and woodcuts.

We once heard from a highly-imaginative person the remark that the success of Mr. Smiles's little book "Self-help" was a bad sign of the times, inasmuch as it proved how eager was the search for guidance in the way of "getting on," and the attainment of material prosperity through the lower forms of industry. However faintly we assented to the proposition when it was advanced, the perusal of the book of which we now take leave has convinced us that here, at least, no such accusation can justly be brought forward. The achievements recorded are heroic, and the narration of them, rightly read, is a poem—the epic of our "iron age."

LORD W. LENNOX'S RECOLLECTIONS.

Drafts on My Memory: Being Men I have Known, Things I have Seen, Places I have Visited. By Lord William Pitt Lennox. 2 Vols. (Chapman & Hall.)

IF all the drafts in these two portly volumes are duly honoured, Lord William Lennox must have a prodigious balance at his banker's. It is difficult to speak with too much respect of a man possessed of such advantages. We know that in the world generally the question of a man's merits, his rank and social position, is often decided by a mere reference to this balance, and, except in cases where the said balance has been fraudulently obtained, the estimate is considered satisfactory. One of our censors—we think it is Bulwer, in "England and the English"—says that in France the first question about anyone is, What has he done? in England, What has he got? In the business sphere of life, the money question is certainly paramount. You must live in a house paying a certain rent, keep a certain number of servants, drive horses which have cost you a certain price, and give dinners with certain expensive dishes, if you wish to be accepted in City society. But we trust that we look on things from another point of view, and judge them solely by their merits. This is the point of view we shall adopt in our treatment of Lord W. Lennox.

To continue his simile, however, there is one thing that strikes us in his practice of banking. Ought not some of these cheques to have been endorsed with the name of the first drawer? We recognize some that are familiar to us already. The story of Cardinal Fesch and the two turbot is told

in Mr. Hayward's "Art of Dining." That of Sydney Smith and his cousins once removed is still more familiar. But, on the whole, we find a vast proportion of anecdotes which have not found their way into print, or, at least, into popular writings. And as much of the work is personal to Lord W. Lennox, there is sufficient novelty to carry off a few well-known faces. Lord W. Lennox admits that he cannot hope for more than this, and the modesty of his opening remarks disarms our censure. We must own that his opportunities have been great. His recollections begin early in the century, and he seems to have met with most men of eminence who have flourished since then. He was extra aide-de-camp to the Duke of Wellington, except at the time when an aide-de-camp's post would have been most valuable to the autobiographer—namely, at the Battle of Waterloo. But he accompanied the Duke on his embassy to Paris in 1814, and lived with him at Cambray during the occupation of France by the Allied Armies. He met Byron twice—once at Jackson's, the pugilist, and once in the green-room of Drury-lane. He saw the arrest of Sir Francis Burdett; sat in Parliament with O'Connell; received great courtesies from Louis Philippe; visited Fauntleroy and Thistlewood just before their execution; was intimate with Theodore Hook, Count d'Orsay, and Lady Blessington; and defended the present Emperor of the French against a duelling compatriot during his exile, against the attacks of English newspapers after he had mounted the throne.

Here is ample material, and Lord W. Lennox has made a pleasant gossiping book out of it. We admire his frankness in one respect, that he does not shrink from telling stories against himself. A man's judgment on horses is perhaps the most sensitive point in his character, and you may find ten men who will admit that they don't understand pictures, or politics, or science, for one who will own that he cannot tell "the points of a horse." If we are not mistaken Lord W. Lennox figures extensively as a writer on sporting; there are many indications of it in these volumes. Yet he owns that after riding a horse one day, and putting it up at a booth during the Derby, he was unable to pick it out from forty others; and that when he went to choose a horse from a dealer, he always relied on the assistance of a friend. In the same way, Lord W. Lennox tells without reluctance how frightfully he was victimized by some hoaxer passing off a "puce extirpator" as the great sporting writer, "Nimrod." But his volumes contain many other instances of practical jokes in which he was not the sufferer, some in which he took an active part. Mixing much with famous wits, such as Theodore Hook, Cannon, Barham, of Ingoldsby fame, and the clique of dandies, some of whom cultivated neatness in other respects than dress, Lord W. Lennox is content to record the jokes he heard, without aspiring to emulate them. He gives us two of Theodore Hook's extempore songs, which for their point, their readiness, and their thorough workmanship are quite worthy of their author's reputation. So is the following pun, which is new to us. Lord W. Lennox was giving a dinner to Hook and some other friends, and the cook made a fatal confusion between a jar of turtle soup and a *terriner de foie gras*. "Never mind," said Hook, as the host lamented the absence of the turtle, "we do not judge of the dinner by the test you do (testudo)." That Lord W. Lennox does gauge dinners by some such test appears more than once. He is evidently a judge of a good dinner, either in Paris or London, and he tells stories of Crockford's and the Rocher de Cancale which make our mouths water. Here are two instances of expensive dinners which will not be found, though they may be paralleled, in Mr. Hayward's "Art of Dining":—

Three gamblers who, after winning a large sum, had reduced it to a thousand francs, determined to spend that amount upon one dinner, and spoke to Borel upon the subject. . . . The

prices of expensive dishes were discussed, but none appeared extravagant, when all of a sudden an idea flashed across the mind of one of the party, which was to have a dish of frogs. As the time of year at which the dinner was held was the month of December, the intensity of the frost had closed every pond, and, in order to get the frogs, it was necessary to employ at least fifty workmen to break up the ice. The result was that a hundred frogs cost five hundred francs, and a soup was made of them which none of the party tasted.

The other instance occurred in London. A party at White's were discussing how much a dinner could be made to cost, when it was agreed that each should order a dish, and whoever selected the most expensive one should dine for nothing. Alvanley came off victorious, having desired the cook to introduce a fricassee of that part of the fowl called the oyster, which, to make a dish, required at least a hundred fowls, at a cost of four shillings each.

Lord W. Lennox is equally eloquent on the subject of wines, and seems a sufficient *laudator temporis acti* to blame the reforms introduced by Mr. Gladstone. Now-a-days, he says, we have home-made gooseberry at 32s. a dozen, fizzing Moselle at the same price, St. Emilion at 2s. a bottle, South African port, Gladstone's sherry, cheap Rhine wines under long names, instead of the first growths of former times. But his own stories tell against his theory. His friend who, "long before the Gladstone cheap wine movement," had purchased two dozen of Crockford's best claret, and always talked about it while giving his friends *vin ordinaire*, would have more chance of making a good show without expense under the present system. Now that we can get really good wines at a moderate price, there is no need for us to sigh after the days when good wine was confined to the few, and when flavour was replaced by strength to the many. The houses where the old order still lingers, and where claret has not yet made its appearance, are the only links with the past, reminding us of the penance which had then to be undergone, and filling us with fresh gratitude for our modern freedom from gout and headaches. But we do not understand how, under any system, the following accident could have occurred.—

During dessert, a bottle of Constantia was produced, which for age and flavour was supposed to be matchless. It was liquid gold in a crystal flagon, a ray of the sun descending into a goblet, it was nectar which was worthy of Jove, and in which Bacchus would have revelled. The noble head of the House of Russell himself helped his guest to a glass of this choice wine, and De Grammont on tasting it declared it to be excellent. The Duke of Bedford, anxious to judge of its quality, poured out a glass, which no sooner approached his lips than, with a horrible contortion, he exclaimed, "Why what on earth is this?" The butler approached, took the bottle, applied it to his nostrils, and to the dismay of his master pronounced it to be castor-oil! The Duc de Grammont had swallowed this horrid draught without wincing.

Next to dinners, the most prominent topic in Lord W. Lennox's volumes is the stage, both public and private. The author dates the beginning of his life from his first visit to a provincial theatre; and, besides seeing every famous actor of the century, he seems to have acted in almost every play. He joined in private theatricals at Brussels, Windsor, Leamington, Berkeley Castle, and Hounslow; cut out a speech in Douglas, turned an apothecary in a comedy into an apothecary's boy, and inserted a new scene in *Bombastes Furioso*. More important than any of these dramatic or managerial attempts was his introduction of Madame Vestris to Elliston, which led to her engagement at Drury-lane. Lord W. Lennox does not join in the common complaint of the decline of the drama. He "considers the talent which is now employed, or has been employed during the last twenty years, far from inferior to that which delighted our ancestors." From a man who takes such interest in theatrical matters, and who witnessed the performances of John Philip Kemble and Edmund Kean, this admission is noteworthy.

THE READER.

2 DECEMBER, 1865.

We will conclude with a couple of anecdotes, which are fair samples of those that abound throughout these volumes. Here is a warning to gentlemen afflicted with that alphabetical weakness by no means uncommon:—

When the ham was put on the table, Barham told an *apropos* story of Scarlett, afterwards Lord Abinger. What we should now term a very loud cockney swell was giving his evidence, and in answer to some question of Scarlett's he replied very pompously: "I ham." The counsel put his glass to his eye, looked full at the witness, and remarked in a quiet tone, with a smile on his good-humoured countenance, "You are unquestionably the finest and best-dressed ham I ever met with."

And here is an incident occurring at Lord Shaftesbury's examination of a girls' school:—

Just as the noble lord was about to take his leave, he addressed a girl somewhat older than the rest, and among other things inquired, "Who made your vile body?" "Please, my Lord," responded the unsophisticated girl, "Betsy Jones made my body, but I made the skirt myself."

A similar reply is recorded of another charity scholar, who was under examination in the Psalms, "What is the pestilence that walketh by darkness?" "Please, Sir, bugs."

Lord William Lennox should favour this boy with the address of the "puce extirpator" whom he took for "Nimrod."

THE CHARITIES OF EUROPE.

Six Months among the Charities of Europe. By John de Liefde. 2 Vols. (Strahan.)

THIS book is the result of a tour undertaken by the author at the suggestion of his publisher, who desired to increase the knowledge possessed in England of Continental philanthropy. Twenty-six institutions were visited with this view in the course of 1863 and 1864, fifteen of which are more or less fully described in the neat and pleasant volumes before us. With regard to some of these, considerable information has already been supplied by such books as Stevenson's "Praying and Working;" and the main facts relating to the Deaconess House at Kaiserswerth are very widely known from other sources besides, so that one or two of the chapters of the present work do not contain much that is new. Other houses and asylums, however, are now brought before us, of which little or no account has hitherto been given; and their history and principles are well worth studying at a time when there is so general a fermentation in English philanthropy, and when so much attention is turned to providing asylums for poor children, and reformatories for those who have been led by early poverty into early crime.

In the history of the original foundation of almost all of the Continental charities described by the author there is noticeable a simplicity of faith which would be called among us visionary and unpractical. We have, in England, come very much to care for one half only of the stock Cromwellian saying; we keep our powder dry, and believe that so we shall ensure victory. But a different spirit prevails among the simple-minded Germans who turn their attention to bringing about deeds of charity. The men who founded the Ranke Haus at Horn, for instance, with the offshoots which have sprung either from that institution or direct from the fertile brain of its chief founder, set about their work in a way very unlike that in which similar works are accomplished with us. Not only is there always a little more sentiment in a German than in an English society, but Dr. Wichern and his friends looked for bricks and mortar to prayer, and prayer only, with a confidence and a success which remind us very strongly of Mr. Müller and the Ashley Down Orphanages. The annual reports of that gentleman (Mr. Müller) are the most striking pieces of financial and administrative literature it is possible to read, and the abundant support that is given to him is a very great marvel—a miracle,

some are inclined to think. Of course, when it comes to be really examined into, this manner of founding and carrying on a vast concern is neither more nor less than a gigantic advertisement system; that is to say, leaving out of the question for a moment the assumed efficacy of the special prayers devoted to the progress of the cause, the mere statement of the fact that Mr. Müller maintains, and has for many years maintained, a large and most useful establishment on voluntary contributions, which he solicits not by direct appeals to men, but by prayer, is sufficient at once to impress hundreds of people, and he finds that it impresses thousands, with the idea that they are meant to contribute a share. Men are so easily self-convinced that the Spirit moves them to do something. At any rate, Mr. Müller has by means of his prayers and the widespread advertisement of the fact that he prays (his institution has circulated more than twenty-five million tracts!) procured already something over 212,000*l.*, besides countless and costly offerings in kind, and he sees no signs of the supply failing. And so, when we are told that a young German *candidat* (something like a licentiate in theology with power to preach) determined with two or three friends to "pray down a house from Heaven" as an asylum for outcast children, we are inclined to think that, whether the eventual house was really *Diopetes* or not, there was a strong probability in favour of some imaginative neighbour considering himself called upon to make over a little property to the band of enthusiasts. However that may be, such was the end of the praying; the house came, and money with it; indeed, the money came before the house. A clergyman to whom the distribution of a bequest for charitable purposes was entrusted, assigned 1,050*l.* to the proposed Rettungshaus (house of refuge and redemption), and Mr. Sieveking, the Syndic of Horn, near Hamburg, offered a house and piece of land. But alas! the bequest was contested by the natural heirs, and the house was found to be utterly unfit for the purpose, and so Wichern and his friends were left where they were before. Then, again, light came. The lawsuit went the right way, and they got even more than had been originally assigned to them. The Syndic of Horn bethought him that another property of his, the Ruge Hoos, would be just the right thing, if only it were not let on a long lease; when lo! no sooner had he thought of this than the tenant came and humbly begged to be let off the remainder of his lease. Such was the commencement of the large establishment now called the Ranke-Haus, a civilization and corruption of Ruge Hoos.

In November, 1833, Wichern and his mother entered upon their work. They began with twelve little savages from the wicked streets of Hamburg. Of these eight were illegitimate; four had been brought up so far by drunken and criminal parents; one was known to have committed ninety-two thefts, and one had broken prison. As soon as these were well in hand, applications poured in for other boys to be admitted, but Wichern determined that he would not have more than twelve in his family, and so he set about building a second house near the first. This expansion went on till new houses rose on all sides, each containing its family; and as the separate house-families have their own organization, and are independent of all the others in internal detail, the whole system rather resembles that of a university composed of various colleges. All manner of useful trades and employments are taught to the children, indoors and out-of-doors, and they are subjected to an amount of precise routine which sounds wearisome to an English ear, but is held to be very beneficial to the young German mind. This training, as well as the moral welfare of the children—girls now being added to the original plan—is looked after by a class of men who have sprung up as an offshoot from the Ranke-Haus, and are becoming a power in Prussia, the Brethren of the Inner Mission. The origin of this Inner

Mission may be given in the words of the author:—

The miseries of Hamburg were but symptoms of the fearful disease which pervaded and poisoned the body of the whole German people. There was a general cry for help from all the German States. Everywhere strenuous efforts were being made to check the alarming increase of pauperism, and to dam up the pestilential flood of wickedness. Government built prisons, communities built schools, poor-boards built workhouses, philanthropists built reformatories. But the prisons needed able governors and chaplains, the schools teachers, the workhouses directors, and the reformatories house-fathers. An immense field for labour was thus thrown open; but where were the labourers? There were plenty, but they were not known. There was a general revival going on among the young men of Germany. The alarming increase of demoralization had opened the eyes of many seriously-minded members of the rising generation, especially artisans, teachers, and peasants, to the necessity of coming to the rescue of the lower classes of society. . . . But as those who wanted them did not know where to find them, so they did not know where they were wanted. Moreover, desirous as they were to do the thing, most of them did not know how to do it. . . . They felt they needed instruction and training to be able to instruct and train others.

Now Wichern's plan of small house-families seemed to imply a band of house-fathers and assistants almost as numerous as the children themselves. But where were the men to be got, and where was the money to come from for their support? The founder of the Ranke Haus conceived the idea that his own want and that of his country might be met by the same machinery, and accordingly he invited young men of the artisan class to come and live for two or three years in his institution, accommodation for six or seven being provided in each house-family. They were to teach their trades to the children, and in teaching would learn how to deal with the poor and ignorant. Then he issued an appeal for the support of this after growth, on the plea that it was not merely for the benefit of the Ranke Haus, but of the whole of Protestant Germany. And the appeal has been answered. The Brethren of the Inner Mission have existed for twenty-nine years, and they are now spread far and wide over the face of their own and almost all lands, putting in practice the lessons they have learned while teaching the rough children at Horn. Dr. Wichern has had about 800 applications for men to occupy the position of heads or assistants in reformatories, and work-houses, and national schools; and to show that he does not send out men unfitted for the work, it may be stated that he has refused considerably more than half the applications made to him for admission to the society. They were the brethren of this order who accompanied the Prussian army to the field in the recent war with Denmark, the hospitals being in charge of the Deaconesses of Kaiserswerth and the Deacons of Duisburg, and they faced the fire of the famous *Rolf Krake* in the course of the performance of their duty. They are organized like a monastic brotherhood; all read every morning the same portion of Scripture in all parts of the world, and sing the same hymns. They all report to their head at the Ranke Haus at regular stated intervals. They are supposed to have resigned their own will as to choosing the field of their labour, and Dr. Wichern and his committee exact from them "such abject submission as even an abbot would scarcely require from his monks." Indeed, the author of this account is inclined to fear that there may be in their organization a preparation for a system of Protestant monachism.

The description given of the state of things which necessitated the foundation of some society like the Inner Mission, if all or any of the work was to be done which made such imperative demands upon the philanthropy of right-thinking Germans, will be interesting to English readers at the present time, when our own Church has so recently and so nobly emerged from its stagnation with regard to similar duties. Some years ago Dr. Wichern published a memorable

pamphlet entitled "Die Nothstände der Protestantischen Kirche" (The Alarming Condition of the Protestant Church), of which the following is in some sort a summary. It contains some suggestive hints to ourselves:—

The Protestant Church had grossly failed in her mission. Many causes had contributed to this failure; but one of the principal was, doubtless, the spirit of autocratic centralization, of bureaucratic hierarchism, with which the governments, and especially the Prussian Government, had ruled the Church establishment. That Government had kept everything relating to religion in its own hands, permitting no public preaching of the Gospel but by its own clergy, although the number of clergymen was in very great disproportion to the mass of the people to whom they had to minister. No wonder that thousands of sheep went astray, where four or five thousand had only one pastor to look after them. Besides, the clergy, in their character as state officers, were burdened with a heavy load of administrative labours in their parishes and schools, which absorbed a considerable portion of their strength and time. . . . Many a clergyman had taken orders that he might, as a gentleman, enjoy the company of gentlemen, but not that he might spend an hour in the huts of the poor, or show that the "heart of the wise is in the house of mourning," unless that house of mourning happened to be the burgomaster's, the banker's, or the baron's.

Fortunately, our comparative release from such a state of things has been effected by means more worthy of the clergy than would seem to have been the case in Prussia:—

The Society [of the Inner Mission] is the result of a tacit compact between the Christian philanthropists and the clergy, by which the latter, while keeping the oversight of the higher and more respectable classes for themselves, hand over the care of the poor, the outcast, and the abandoned, to the former. I will not enter here upon an examination as to how far such a division of labour, by which the pastors are exonerated from the care of their lost sheep, is in harmony with the picture of a good shepherd as given in the Gospel.

It will be seen from this account that the Ranke Haus and its co-ordinate society of the Inner Mission are doing a large and very valuable work. The brethren of the mission receive during the three years they spend in the house gratuitous instruction from the *candidat* attached to each house-family, and board and lodging and a little pocket-money. They must pay for their own necessary books, the cost of which is some six or eight thalers a-year. They are supported by a fund entirely separate from the house finances, and of this fund no balance-sheet is published. In 1863 the contributions on which it depends amounted to 450*l*. In the same year the income of the house itself was about 2,100*l*., and this provided a surplus of 2,081 Hamburg marks, or a little over 120*l*. Under the head of expenditure an item appears which is rather offensive—"salary of the Director 0,000 . . . 00," an unnecessary piece of ostentation.

A very interesting account is given of the establishment for poor children at Beuggen, near Bale, in the Grand Duchy of Baden, which the Swiss philanthropist Zeller founded. More than one hundred children are housed and taught in the old castle of that name, which occupies a commanding position on the Rhine between Säckingen and Rheinfelden, names familiar to the student of the Thirty Years' War in connexion with other things than philanthropy. The Grand Duke Louis leased the building to Zeller and his friends for 5*l*. a-year, leaving its restoration to a habitable condition in their hands. The money for this purpose was raised in a characteristic manner. A lady, whose name is not on record, sent a valuable gold box, and desired that a school might be founded with it. Zeller at once wrote a hundred tickets, fixing the price of each at one Louisd'or (18*s*. 4*d*.), and put the box up to be drawn for, and thus a small capital of 91*l*. 13*s*. 4*d*. was obtained. The box was drawn by a lady of Bale, and she, feeling that she could not deprive the future poor children of so valuable a property, gave it back to Mr. Zeller.

He promptly issued another hundred tickets, and thus doubled his capital, and, as before, the box, when drawn, was returned. Three times over it was given to him, and then he stored it up among the permanent treasures of the establishment, possibly for future use in case of emergency. Of this school no balance-sheet has ever been published, though it depends on voluntary contribution, and has been going on for nearly fifty years. A statistical account of the first 269 children educated there was published in 1843, and out of these there were: Married, 40; master tradesmen, 54; servants and apprentices, 77; behaving badly, 23; dead, 23; little or nothing known of, 52. A much more satisfactory account than many such charities are able to give.

Interesting descriptions of the Deacon-house at Duisburg-on-the-Rhine, near Düsseldorf, which owes its origin to Pastor Fliedner, of Kaiserswerth celebrity; of the neighbouring asylum for discharged prisoners under Pastor Dietrich, at Lintorf; of the joiner Wurtz's establishment for indigent children at Neuhof; and of eight or nine similar institutions scattered here and there in Western Europe, complete this account of "The Charities of Europe." The field indicated by that title is too large for one man or one book; but so much as has here been done is pleasantly and well done.

CHATELARD.

Chastelard: A Tragedy. By Algernon Charles Swinburne. (Moxon & Co.)

EVEN among his admirers, Mr. Swinburne's new tragedy will probably meet with a varied reception. If there are many who will be glad that he has exercised his imagination on a theme which cannot but be popular, there will be others to whom it may appear matter for regret that he should have removed his scene from the rugged mountains of Ætolia, to bring before us the frivolities of the French Court of Mary Stuart; and that he should now choose as his subject the treacherous coquetry of the Queen of Scots, after having portrayed, with the skill of the dramatist and the poet, the classical passion of Althæa. For ourselves, we consider his choice happy. Mr. Swinburne has given additional proof in "Chastelard" that he has been the student of the Greek tragedians without becoming their copyist. He has caught, to a great extent, the chasteness and felicity of their expression, but has been guilty of few of those anachronisms, which would have been dangerous snares to the half-disciplined mind. There is one feature in Mr. Swinburne's poetry which we are especially glad to observe—the absence of those convulsive attempts at "word-painting," by which too many of the effusions of the present day are painfully characterized. We are pleased also to see that in the volume before us he has greatly mended the music of his verse. "Chastelard" displays far fewer of those defects which we had to notice in "Atalanta in Calydon"; there is less quaintness of expression, less monotony in the movement of the rhythm. A poem which sets before us the fate of one of the least known of those who fell captive before the beauty of the Scotch Queen, that has almost redeemed with posterity her faults, in which light and shade, present joy and the anticipation of coming calamity, are inseparably commingled, could hardly fail to be interesting. And Mr. Swinburne has made the most of a good subject. His scenes are laid with an artist's eye. The conversation of the four Maries, at the commencement of the first act, is a fit prelude for all that is to follow. It is, as it were, an introduction to the character of Mary Stuart; while the first long speech of Chastelard in the same scene strikes the key-note to the whole:—

She hath fair eyes; may be
I love her for sweet eyes, or brows, or hair,
For the smooth temples, where God touching
her
Made blue with sweeter veins the flower-sweet
white;

Or for the tender turning of her wrist,
Or marriage of the eyelid with the cheek—
I cannot tell; or flush of lifting throat,
I know not if the colour gets a name
This side of heaven—no man knows; or her
mouth,

A flower's lip with a snake's lip, stinging sweet,
And sweet to sting with.

Such is Mary's beauty, and such Chastelard's love. Mary is represented in vivid colours, and the unfolding of her character, with one or two exceptions, is admirable. The almost childish simplicity with which she expresses her affection for France, and her disappointment at the old Scotch climate—

One grows much older northwards, my fair lord;
I wonder men die South; meseems all France
Smells sweet with living, and bright breath of
days

That keep men far from dying;

her love of admiration; her jealousy of a moment's rivalry—yet all toned down, as it were, by a certain tinge of melancholy—are put before us well. This melancholy is, however, allowed at times to be too predominant in the earlier portions of the play, when we reflect upon the sequel of her character that is to follow. Nothing could be better than the unreasoning horror of death which Mary in her interview with Chastelard, in the second act, displays. Fired with enthusiasm at the thought of the glittering pageantry of war, she asks her knight the name of an adversary whom he had once slain. On hearing

"Twas a goodly one
Before he changed it for a dusty name,
she says—
Talk not of death; I would hear living talk
Of good live swords and good strokes struck
withal,
Brave battles, and the mirth of mingling men,
Not of cold names you greet a dead man with.

Not less powerful is the portrayal of the perplexity and doubt that distress the Queen before she can consent to the execution of her favourite; and it is in these scenes that Mr. Swinburne has justified the choice of the second of the mottoes which he had prefixed to his tragedy. His analysis of the conflicting passions of love, pride, and selfishness is subtle and skilful; and his diligence cannot be too highly commended. There are two parts of the play deserving of special praise—the second act, and the closing scenes of the fifth. It is in these, and more particularly in the latter, that Mr. Swinburne displays a combination of dramatic and poetic power beyond what is seen in anything that his pen has yet produced. We must quote a few lines from the soliloquy of Chastelard in prison, before the entrance of Mary Beaton, on the Queen:—

Ah, in my weary, dusty space of sight
Her face will float with heavy scents of hair
And fire of subtle amorous eyes, and lips
More hot than wine, full of sweet wicked words
Babbled against mine own lips, and long hand
Spread out, and pale bright throat, and pale
bright breasts,
Fit to make men all men mad. I do believe
This fire shall never quite burn out to the ash,
And leave no heat and flame upon my dust
For witness where a man's heart was burnt up.
For all Christ's work, this Venus is not quelled.

Very effective, too, is Mary's sorrowful presage of a miserable death, nor less beautiful Chastelard's reply. We regret that we have not space to quote either, but both are to be found at page 202. The character of Mary Beaton, skilfully contrived throughout, is well finished in the last scene, than which Mr. Swinburne's drama affords none better. The two concluding lines are calculated to make no slight impression on the reader as he closes the book:—

Make way there for the Lord of Bothwell; room—
Place for my Lord of Bothwell next the Queen.

One favourite forgotten, another succeeds.
The love of Chastelard is easily replaced by
the admiration of Bothwell.

Whether we have in all places been fortunate enough to exactly appreciate the author's

sentiments, and to ascertain their full significance, we cannot presume to say; for his obscurity is, in parts, considerable. The mind is kept too much on the strain in the endeavour to thoroughly comprehend the subtlety of each simile, and to penetrate the inmost meaning of his analogies. These, however, are faults which Mr. Swinburne has learnt in great measure to correct since the appearance of his "Atalanta in Calydon;" and we trust that shortly they will altogether disappear. There is one point which calls for a few words; "Chastelard" is redundant with kissings. Passionate, burning kisses, meet us in every page. Symptoms of a tendency to the display of affection thus demonstrative in its character might be discerned in Mr. Swinburne's previous tragedy; but we now have demonstrativeness carried to an inordinate excess. The different kisses of pity, honour, and love, are all minutely described; and if, after a perusal of this play, the reader is not an adept in the art of osculation, it will be through no fault of Mr. Swinburne's. We are positively ashamed to say how many times the word "kiss" occurs in the course of a certain five pages. And as the play begins so does it end:—

Cheeks,
Turned bright, turned wan, with kisses hard
and hot,

are ceaselessly represented. Seriously, this is a defect, and one which the author will do well to mend. Were it not for their exquisite elegance of expression, these constant exhibitions of passion would deserve severe reprobation. There are but few inconsistencies in the play. It might perhaps be said that the thoughts attributed to Mary, are at times too vigorous, and that the French courtier is endowed with an undue share of the soliloquizing powers of a Hamlet. Regarding the work as a whole, we must thank Mr. Swinburne for a dramatic poem of great power, careful elaboration of plot, artistic disposition of scenes; for admirable descriptions of human emotion and passion; for terse, forcible, yet sweet expression, and a generally scrupulous melody of rhythm. That "Chastelard" will be popular, and greatly add to the author's reputation, we cannot doubt; whether it will live, time only can decide.

THE CITY OF ROME.

A History of the City of Rome: its Structures and Monuments, from its Foundation to the End of the Middle Ages. By P. H. Dyer. (Longmans).

MR. DYER has attempted to fulfil the original, and smaller plan, the decay of the city, rather than that of the empire of Rome, which first suggested itself to the mind of Gibbon. The last chapter in the "Decline and Fall," though by no means the worst written, is undoubtedly the weakest, because it deals with ruins the estimate and identification of which fresh discoveries and fresh erudition have materially interfered with. But where Gibbon begins, Mr. Dyer ends. He has taken a lesson from the success of his great original. The work of Gibbon will never be out of date, because he was in possession of almost all, and certainly all the most important materials which can ever now be brought to our knowledge. He followed the golden rule of art; for he knew what he had to do; and he went in and did it. Mr. Dyer has also confined himself within fixed limits, and has achieved no inconsiderable amount of success. But he does not tread with such an assured step, because he knows that the soil of Rome is but a hollow covering to many monuments which future Dyers will have to describe, and which may upset the most reasonable conclusions, and stultify the arguments of the profoundest scholar.

Raffaello had prepared a plan for clearing away that portion of the modern city which is clustered round the Capitol and the Forum of Trajan; but this remained unexecuted, partly on account of his death, and partly from considerations of expense. Until something of this kind, however, is carried out,

any conclusions as to the exact position of some most interesting spots must remain unsettled.

In a very temperate and scholar-like introduction, Mr. Dyer contests much of the extreme scepticism of Sir G. C. Lewis. We have always looked upon "The Credibility of the Early Roman History" as far more of an historical romance than the annals it undertook to criticize; and in "The Astronomy of the Ancients" Sir G. C. Lewis exposes himself at every sentence. Our author errs from an opposite failing. He is not bold enough. Thus: "Horace speaks of a winter not recorded, I believe, by any other authority as a remarkably severe one, in which Soracte is described as covered with deep snow, an event which seldom or ever occurs now." We can easily understand that no other authority recorded this event, simply because it was a very ordinary one. We have seen ourselves day by day from the Pincian Soracte covered with snow at proper time and season. Whether it was "deep" or not, probably Horace knew no more than we did; but the Romans of the present day who don't study him much paid no attention to the phenomenon, and continued to walk leisurely up and down in full view of the mountain, until, like their ancestors, they were disturbed by the unwelcome music of their Gallic conquerors. We may add, also, that from the "Nivalis Algidus" of Horace Rome still derives its supplies of snow.

Confining himself within the walls of the city, our author draws the original plan of "Roma Quadrata" in accordance with the latest discoveries on the Palatine. It would be inconsistent with his views to deny the personality of the seven kings; and supposing they really existed, he assigns fairly enough their due part to each in the establishment of the city. He certainly has managed to hold the balance even between a mere guide-book and an antiquarian monograph. He is never very brilliant, but he is never very dull. We learn something at almost every page, though we feel disappointed that we are not more excited to classical enthusiasm, or convinced by more brilliant disquisition. He has found out the true point of connexion between Republican and Imperial Rome, in its sites and monuments. We pass in his pages from the days of the consuls to those of the emperors, and on to those of the popes, without observing any break in the continuity of the narrative. This is a feat no one has performed before, and it is no small one. The capture of Rome by Alaric, and its conversion from a Pagan into a Christian city, have failed to seduce the historian of the city from the even tenour of his way. He points out how little real damage the barbarians did, and how long it was before the new religion proceeded to take active steps against the temples of those the Christians continued to fear as demons. All these great events are properly subordinated to his peculiar purpose, and appear as gradual as they probably did to many of the Romans themselves. To analyse a book which is a small encyclopædia is impossible. It must be understood that authorities are weighed and compared in every page, and always without partiality, as the writer has no express theory to serve.

Our only complaint is that the episodes are not made a more striking feature, and that customs of great interest are not dealt with at greater length. That of human sacrifices, for instance, which appears to have diminished and been revived again, according to the temper of the times, rather than any recorded law. Thus, on one occasion, a few drops of blood from the side of the Pontifex Maximus were considered sufficient expiation, but a few years later nothing less than his death would gratify the desire of the mob for a victim to the Manes. Indeed, Mr. Dyer has thrown away many opportunities of embellishing his work, which will occur to the reader quickly enough. This cannot arise from incapacity, but from excess of modesty. We trust the reception which will greet what he has done may in-

duce him to step a little more out of his reserve. To show what amusement his subject can afford, we give this account of a strike about 2,000 years ago:—

The pipers, a jovial crew, fond of good eating and drinking, having been deprived by the censors of their ancient customary feast in the Temple of Jupiter, struck to a man, and departed in a body to Tibur. Next day, lo! there was nobody to pipe before the sacrifices! The senate was perplexed. The pipers knew their value, and had hit the right nail; it was a matter of religion, and at Rome religion was the soul of the state. As in a case of the weightiest political importance, ambassadors were despatched to the Tiburtines to procure the restitution of the vagabond musicians. But promises and exhortations were exhausted in vain, till a plan was hit upon for securing the men by means of their characteristic failing. On a feast-day they were invited separately to dinner, on pretence of enlivening the meal with their music; they were plied with wine, till drunkenness, and next sleep, oppressed them, and in this state of double oblivion were bound, put into waggons, and conveyed to Rome. Great was their astonishment, on awaking next morning, to find themselves in the Forum! Terms were now made with them, and they were persuaded to remain, on condition that those who had piped at the sacrifices should enjoy their traditional feast, and for three days every year should wander fantastically dressed, playing their music, through the streets of Rome; a custom which appears to have lasted till the empire. The sojourner in the modern city may find their counterparts in the pipers of the Abruzzi, who during nine days before Christmas pipe their wild, discordant notes before every image of the Madonna.

NEW NOVELS.

Maxwell Drewitt. By the Author of "George Geith," &c. 3 Vols. (Tinsley Brothers.)

THERE is nothing more charming than to observe the most different styles of beauty in the children of the same mother, or in the productions of the same mind. The works of Mrs. Trafford (as we shall call her) sufficiently resemble one another to show their common parentage, while each possesses a character of its own. Women usually empty themselves into one book, and sprinkle the rest with the residue of their ideas. They give us one cup, a veritable essence, fragrant and strong; after that they make it with tea-dust, or by pouring hot water on the drained leaves. But Mrs. Trafford's conceptions are becoming more vigorous and large; the stores of her stock-in-trade are far from being exhausted, and she displays increased skill in the manipulation of her mind. It is evident that her brain has not yet done growing. She is ascending with rapid strides the ladder of fame, and it would be at present impossible to predict what rank she will ultimately hold among the women of the time.

Not content to supply plot, incident, and situation, to portray sentiment and emotion, Mrs. Trafford always takes a subject which she employs as nature uses silica in wheat, to give solidity to the stalk. In "Too Much Alone" it was chemistry; in "City and Suburb" it was engineering; in "George Geith" it was commerce; in "Maxwell Drewitt" it is agriculture, and the prospects of Galway.

There are many readers, especially of the fair sex, who maintain that novels should be written only to amuse. Our space will not permit us on this occasion to discuss this important question. We shall merely observe that for our part we are always glad to get useful information. Mrs. Trafford appears to have studied Galway, and to have gathered some interesting facts respecting that savage region. These are worked artistically into the story, the movement of which they do not impede, and the merits of which, in our opinion, they considerably enhance. We will now briefly relate the history of the leading character in this tale, without exposing the stratagems of the plot.

Maxwell Drewitt is by right of primogeniture heir to the manor of Kincorth, Galway. The estate having been unentailed, and his

father having been disinherited, he lives in the house, which ought to be his own, a dependant upon his uncle's kindness. It will easily be understood what agony this young man suffers, and how he yearns to regain his rights. It is natural that he should regard his uncle as a usurper, and himself as a defrauded man. He is still heir-at-law to the estate; but at the commencement of the story his uncle brings home an English wife, who afterwards gives birth to a male child. Maxwell Drewitt sees himself robbed of his inheritance a second time. Then arises within him a stern and mighty thought. He will become independent; he will make himself rich; he will regain Kincorth, which is already encumbered through the extravagance of its owner. While on a visit to England he had remarked with wonder the marvels which agriculture achieves; how barren heaths are inclosed and marshes drained; how lands sterile as those of Galway are rendered productive by the brains and hands of men. Retiring to a small freehold which had descended to him from his mother's side, he plunges ardently into agricultural science—the rotation of crops, the composition of soils, and the merits of manures. Furnished with money by a wealthy married woman with whom he is intimate, he imports the English system into his native wilds. However, a fortune is not to be made even in a lifetime on a small farm. His patroness becomes a widow, and he marries her. Like all thoroughly ambitious men, he is selfish and unscrupulous; he strides on to his end, climbing over and trampling upon all obstacles, including his own honour, when it happens to come in his way. A poor girl whom he had seduced, and whom he really loves, as well as such men can love, hears of his marriage, tells him of her coming shame, and implores him to save her by making her his wife. This kind of scene has been “done” in novels (as in life) over and over again; yet in power and in pathos this chapter of Poor Jenny exceeds them all; it is the masterpiece of the book.

He abandons her, marries, treats his wife hardly, accumulates riches, puts Jenny's boy to school, buys up the Kincorth mortgages, and is on the point of realizing (by foreclosure) the grand longing of his life, when a friend assists his ruined relatives. He is compelled after all to resort to vulgar fraud, and when his uncle dies a forged will places Kincorth in his hands.

An ordinary writer would have made the third volume end with an exposure of the swindle. Grand Climax! Rightful Heir Restored!! Criminal Led off in Handcuffs!!! But Mrs. Trafford manages her *dénouement* in a much more artistic, that is, in a much more natural way. Maxwell Drewitt having gained that for which he has laboured all his life, does not enjoy it in the least. He is shunned by his relatives, who suspect his guilt, and whom he would willingly assist. He is left alone with his conscience in a bare and empty house. He possesses that which was once a hope, and which has withered in his hands. Behind him is the past, which is shame; before him is the future, which is despair. Thus he suffers that retribution which falls upon all men who have sinned, whether against the laws of man or God. When a man has purchased fame, beauty, or wealth by bitter sacrifices and long toils, there will always come a time when he will laugh at himself and say, “It was not worth my while.” But when he has obtained his object by heartlessness and crime, what must his thoughts be then?

The work is closed with some dramatic incidents for the satisfaction of the vulgar taste. The last hopes of the disappointed man are centred on his illegitimate son, who leads an evil life and dies a violent death. He himself is killed by a fall from horseback, and dies repentant; which is the orthodox way to end an English novel, and leaves a soothing impression on the British female's mind.

As regards the author's style, we think that it might be improved by care. It wants

polish; her sentences are often rugged and loose; her gems are roughly set. Then her literary metaphors are invariably taken from Holy Scripture, as if the Bible were the only standard work which she had ever read. The personal pronoun is too frequently introduced, especially in this kind of way: “When I come to tell you of how she left Kincorth I would ask you to remember how she entered it.” These shadows of coming events decidedly blot the book. Nothing should be anticipated in a story, and the less that is commented on the better. We make these remarks partly because we like to do difficult things—and it is difficult to find faults in “Maxwell Drewitt”—and partly because the author can easily remedy these little imperfections if she chooses so to do.

Au reste, the story is neatly and humorously arranged; the minor characters are life-like, especially those of Murphy, an aspiring village surgeon, and of Lady Emmeline, Drewitt's rouged and romantic wife; one or two Galway landscapes are charmingly painted with the pen; and many scenes are remarkably well described—for instance, an election, a trial, and the boat tragedy at the end. This work also deserves high praise as an *étude* of Irish character, and as such may take its place with the best efforts of Carleton, Lover, and other native writers. Here and there may be found flashing from the book those black diamonds of peasant wit for which the Irish are proverbial, but which casual visitors to the country are often inclined to deny. Mrs. Trafford herself possesses humour, a rare quality in Englishwomen, but which abounds among the ladies of the Sister Isle.

John Alston's Vow. A Tale. By Elizabeth A. Murray, Author of “Ella Norman; or, A Woman's Perils.” 3 Vols. (Charles J. Skeet.)

MISS MURRAY, in her story of “Ella Norman,” delineated with considerable power and truth the under-current of society in Australia, which made life a burden quite unbearable to such as had been induced by false reports and mistaken views to abandon their native country, “the only home of honour, intelligence, and retirement,” and to seek in that distant land the riches and abundance denied to them at home. The surroundings of scenery, manners, and people were finished photographs, and her book was a success, for she evidently wrote from personal knowledge of her subject, and the causes of emigration failures were fairly and clearly stated. In “John Alston's Vow,” Miss Murray seeks to illustrate one of “the peculiar phases of Australian mixed society, which is composed, as the colonists all know well, of the most incongruous elements;” but the tale, not being confined to the Antipodes, has less of individuality and interest than its predecessor, although there is the same earnest purpose throughout, and it is this earnestness of purpose which is the peculiar feature of works of this class.

Lucie Melville, the daughter of a West Indian planter, has been educated in England, as was also her brother Frank; but the young girl returns to her parents at Cuba, and is soon after married to John Alston, first-lieutenant of Her Majesty's sloop “Vixen,” cruising on the West India station. It was near upon the period of Slave Emancipation, when Mr. Melville's sudden death throws his affairs into the power of Don Fernandes Maura, an unprincipled Spaniard, whom Mr. Melville had taken into partnership, and who had aspired to Lucie's hand previous to her marriage. John Alston's imperious nature is easily worked upon by the wily Maura, until, in jealous rage, he commands his wife to leave her widowed mother and sick sister, and meet him in England after his cruise in the Spanish Main. Lucie's entreaties to remain are ascribed by her husband to Maura's influence, and the lieutenant suddenly sets sail without taking leave of his wife, or making any provision for her future support. He swore—

By the powers of heaven and hell (he cared

little which master he served, as long as he helped him), never to see his wife again, never to let a letter from her be opened by him, or by others for him, never to write to her or let her see him, or know what had become of him. . . . He swore to cut himself off, not only from her, but from all of his kind who had known her, or himself, or who could help her to find him. “Even if death releases her from me,” he adds, “she shall never know it,—living or dead, I will punish her,—even in my grave, if I go before her, I will stand between her and—and any one else.” And he looked up to the clear vault of heaven, and called his God to witness this impious vow.

John Alston exchanged into a ship on the South Sea station, and Lucie's letters and diary, in which the birth of his son Victor was recorded, were alike returned to her unopened. Arrived in England, the deserted wife is tenderly cared for by a married school-friend, Mrs. Dudley, who dies soon after the birth of a little girl. Mr. Dudley is inconsolable for a time, but at length learns that, “when memory could no longer fill the void in his heart, she who had been that wife's dearest friend, his orphan daughter's tender substitute for her lost mother, insensibly took her place.” Seven years have passed. John Alston was no Enoch Arden, nor had Alick Dudley Phillip's winning tongue, yet was Lucie sorely tempted:—

—Tenderly she spoke,
You have been as God's good Angel in our house;
God bless you for it; God reward you for it,
With something happier than myself.

Unable to remain in England, Mr. Dudley resolves to find John Alston, living or dead, and, with this unhallowed purpose, arranges his affairs, leaving Lucie and General Dudley guardians of his little girl, Eva, who is not to attain her majority till she is twenty-five, when, if she marries without her guardians' consent, she forfeits her wealth, and retains only five hundred a-year. Sir Godfrey Alston is next appealed to by Mr. Dudley, and a presentation to Charterhouse obtained for Victor on reaching his tenth year. The Thorns, a fine estate, is the home of Mrs. Alston, Eva, and Victor, until the latter leaves college at twenty-three to choose his course of life. At the age of ten, Eva loses her father. Mr. Dudley had visited Australia, New Zealand, and the South-Sea Islands, but in vain, the slight clue he had obtained from Sir Godfrey Alston failing him in his search for John Alston, who was said to have been met at Auckland by one who knew him, living with a wife under the name of Grimes. Returning homewards, Mr. Dudley is attacked by fever, and dies.

General Dudley, now that Eva is growing up, turns his attention to his ward. His son, Captain Herbert Dudley, he intends shall marry her, for her money; but finds that Victor and Eva are declared lovers, though Victor forms no engagement. Victor is grossly insulted by General Dudley, and nothing is left for him in honour but to accept the first opening offered, and “go to the uttermost end of the earth.” Sir Godfrey gets a letter of introduction for him to the Governor of Melbourne from the Under-Secretary of the Colonies, and with this vague prospect, which the baronet thinks all-sufficient, poor Victor has to go out, with a “mob of men, encumbrances, and demoralisms, to make his fortune out of nothing.”

Arrived, he meets after a short time with a young farmer, Alfred Grey, and the two become friends and partners. Mr. and Mrs. Grey, with Alfred and two daughters, reside at South Yarra, the Belgravia of Melbourne, and here Victor is made “welcome as one of themselves.” From this point the reader sees the *dénouement* of the story, and in the wilful blindness of Mr. Grey as to the probable result of inquiry into the parentage of Victor Alston lies the weakness of the plot.

“John Alston's Vow” is inferior in many respects to its predecessor, yet the characters are lifelike and natural; and, if not so original as “Ella Norman,” it is entitled to take rank with the best Circulating Library novels of the day.

GIFT BOOKS OF THE SEASON.

[No. 3.]

THE most beautiful gift-book of the season is published this day in Paris. Messrs. Alfred Mame et Fils, of Tours, issue this morning "La Sainte Bible, Illustrée par Gustave Doré," of which a London edition, with English text, is announced by Messrs. Cassell and Co., who have now ready an edition of Doré's illustrations to the "Inferno" of Dante, accompanied by Carey's translation, sent forth with all the luxury of type, paper, and binding, to render it pre-eminently one of the most covetable books of the kind. The illustrations, from a duplicate set of plates, are identical with those of the Paris issue, and in reproducing the work in such a splendid form Messrs. Cassell and Co. deserve the thanks of all lovers of art. The more such a work is known, the higher will be the standard of our illustrated literature. For knowledge of effect and for rendering in a severe style the highest qualities of art, these woodcuts are unrivalled, and will prove a very seasonable antidote to the insipid prettinesses of too many of our popular gift-books. Doré is perhaps the greatest as well as the most prolific artist of our era, and of all his works, his illustrations to Dante are most in harmony with the peculiar bent of his genius, and shows his power of representing the horrible and the gloomy mystery of interminable vastness, sometimes grotesque, often sublime—everything he touches bears the unmistakable stamp of genius. There is one quality in his art that has never been sufficiently appreciated—a quality which we have hitherto failed to analyse, but which we have detected also in some of the finest works of Rembrandt—a solemn silence. The illustrations to pp. 2, 8, and 55 are remarkable for this quality. The volume is sure to be welcomed by all who read Dante in the original or in a translation. At Paris has also appeared a reissue of Gustave Doré's "Légende du Juif Errant, Poème de Pierre Dupont," with Beranger's ballad set to music by Ernest Doré, which is now as well on sale in London, at Messrs. Hachette's and other importers of French books.—Messrs. Griffith and Farran seem resolved to anticipate the pantomimes, and open up Fairy Land almost before it is time to their young people. "Fairy Land, or Recreation for the Rising Generation," makes us long to shut our eyes, hoping to open them amongst giants, and cows without tails, all happily disposed under the sceptre of Queen Mab. But they have not forgotten the universal passion for science, and "Fairy Tales of Science" are more wonderful still, perhaps, because they are more nearly true. "The Wonderful Lamp" is an astonishing illustration; more like what the "Hand of Glory" ought to be than anything else we can remember. "Almeria's Castle" is a little more sober; but India is nearly as far off as Fairy Land to children, and a judicious distribution of these presents amongst a family would make three at least delighted, and no one person discontented. "Salvator Mundi, a Series of Brief Meditations on the Life of Christ, in Prose and Verse, Selected from Great Divines," is the title of a beautiful Christmas book put forth by Messrs. Seeley, Jackson, & Halliday, with photographic illustrations by Messrs. Seeley, from choice impressions of fine old engravings after the old masters, including Giovanni Bellini, Vanderwerf, Procaccini, Tintoretto, Leonardi da Vinci, Rembrandt, Rubens, Le Sueur, Raffaele, and Ann. Carracci. So tempting a book has seldom made its appearance, which, together with its cheapness, is sure to make it as popular as it deserves to be. Messrs. Seeley also send us "The Children's Friend," with such a "Sleepy Boy Going to Bed," after W. Hunt, on the illuminated cover, that none who see it will be able to withstand its cost of eighteenpence. A somewhat kindred volume is "The Children's Prize," published by Mr. Macintosh, in a cover of purple and gold, a cheap serial like the other, sent forth in monthly penny-worths.—Mr. Hotten adopts the old device of the water-pot and the flower, with the

motto, "Recreat et Alit," not at all amiss for a publisher who has issued so successful a production of his own as "The Slang Dictionary." He has just published "The Hatchet Throwers," by James Greenwood, with thirty-six illustrations in colours, by Ernest Griset, of which we shall speak on another occasion, only recommending the book in the meantime to all lovers of fun and frolic run wild.—"Rates and Taxes, and How they were Collected," published by Messrs. Groombridge and Sons, is by the authors of "The Bunch of Keys," and edited by Tom Hood. The volume consists of seven of the same sort of forced tales, which may be seasonable enough at Christmas time with turkey and plum-pudding to match, but which are, happily, as perishable, two by Thomas Archer, and one by each of the following writers: Tom Hood, W. J. Prowse, T. W. Robertson, W. S. Gilbert, and Clement W. Scott.—Messrs. Ward, Lock, and Tyler publish "Cozynook," by Mrs. Bird, and Messrs. Maxwell and Co. a new boys' book by Mr. Wm. Dalton, with the taking title of "Lost among the Wild Men."—"Prodigious!" we naturally exclaim, with Dominie Sampson, as we glance over a third weekly parcel sent to us by Messrs. Routledge and Sons. We now add to our former lists of their Christmas books "Ellen Montgomery's Book-shelf," by the author of "Queechy" and "The Wide, Wide World"—a collection of three tales, "Mr. Rutherford's Children," "Carl Krinken, or the Christmas Stocking," and "Caspar;" "The Two School Girls and other Tales," by the authors of "The Wide, Wide World" and "My Brother's Keeper," with four coloured illustrations; "The Boy Pilgrims," by Anne Bowman, a book of perils and adventures; "Aunt Emma," by the author of "Rose and Kate," with two coloured illustrations; "Try and Trust;" and "Ernie Elton, the Lazy Boy," by Mrs. Eiloart.

(To be continued.)

A NEW MAGAZINE.

RED, yellow, and dark-blue, with its outside very much like that of a wasp, and its print not very much better than the American edition of a pirated novel, the *Argosy* starts weighted with no ordinary amount of useless ballast. But Mr. Jason Jones keeps its log, and Miss Isa Craig spreads the sails. Charles Reade commences his novel of "Griffith Gaunt" with a fox-hunting scene, in which a modernized Diana Vernon plays the principal part. A print of the viaduct of L'Ariccia shows us how effectively a much deeper valley than that which separates Holborn-hill from Smithfield may be treated. Alexander Smith makes one feel almost rejoiced to look forward to the prospect of entering "Old Fogiedom." M. Vambéry introduces us to the fashionable world of Bokhara, and explains how he parried the inevitable question, "Is there another city in the world in which it is so agreeable to reside?" And this is by no means all the cargo of the new vessel. No wonder, if "our thoughts are ships," that we

Launch forth in hope in these despairing days—
Launch bravely forth, and hope new orphans yet to raise.

Prize Essays of the National Association for Promoting Freedom of Public Worship: *Free Worship and Finance*. By the Rev. T. P. Browning. *An Inquiry into the Principles of Church Finance, in Ancient and Modern Times*. By James Hamilton. *The English Pew System: its Evils and their Remedy*. By S. H. Saxby. *The Evils of the Appropriation of Parish and District Churches, &c.* By T. P. Browning. *The Offertory: an Essay, &c.* By W. P. S. Bingham. (Rivingtons).—*Free and Open Worship in the Parish Churches of England*. A Sermon. By C. J. Vaughan, D.D. (Macmillan & Co.).—The authors of these essays are working clergymen, with ample opportunities for experience: and they have the imprimatur of a thoughtful body of examiners; at the head of whom stands the Archdeacon of Coventry. As treated, the subject would seem to belong to that of Protection; it brings up a very similar class of arguments and objections; and promises, if it should meet with public attention, to obtain a similar solution. There is place for a village Cobden: and when such a man is found, he may reap as rich a harvest of popu-

larity, and obtain as benevolent a result with respect to the spiritual food of the people. It would seem we were complaining of poverty with a mine of wealth at our doors, just as we had found out that not even the wealth of England could supply properly endowed churches in proportion to our increasing population, nor the zeal of England keep pace with the demand for priests for the new churches she so lavishly builds. We can quadruple the use of the churches we have, and make the services of the priests, which can be supplied, applicable to a vastly increased area. Nay, we are led to believe that a millennium of reconciliation of classes is to attend upon the re-establishment of the law in regard to the equal right of individuals to a place in the parish churches, or rather the simple removal of a usurpation by the moneyed classes of the rights of all. Protection in political questions has been associated with invincible stupidity; and one cannot but smile at the industry and perseverance with which all the objections have been collected; not, we strongly suspect, with the idea of crushing the question, but of trying how far the party in possession may be enlisted in the coming contest against the people's advocates. It is the old general in his comfortable casemate, sending defiant messages to the besieging general, knowing that a few more lives must be spent to make surrender honourable. In a word, the attack threatens to prove stronger than the defence. But long ere the stronghold is dangerously threatened, the besieged general will find out that discretion is the better part of valour, and he will be found with his persevering foe, walking arm in arm on the glacis, both congratulating one another that peace has been proclaimed. There is another side to this question, which must claim the attention of politicians, without entering into all the squabbles of the sects. That large body of malcontents, thrust out of the Church, chiefly, it appears, by the pew system, and being gradually absorbed by various Nonconformist bodies, must affect anxiously true statesmen. The proposed emancipation will tend to absorb many of them, and give them a fair opportunity of returning to the Church, from which they are separated by force of circumstances rather than by will. At present this is a large body, brought up in discontent, and such a body statesmen generally try to prevent solidifying into an opposition, with an unmanageable cry. A claim of legal right is far more dangerous than a claim of extended franchise. One who was smarting under this discouraging influence of the pew usurpation once remarked, that "if the people regarded the worship of God with half the zeal that they do a turnpike, there would be a Rebekah in every parish. But people long endure very inconvenient turnpikes, and then, as we know, they are apt to go, fifty or sixty at a time. One conclusion is very obvious. If the wealthy classes—and this means every one quite down to the bottom end of the middle classes—continue to usurp the area of the parish churches, then the poor must retire from them, being virtually cast out, and do what they can for themselves, which means meeting-houses and sectarian teaching. On the other hand, if, say, the wealthy choose, by the admission of the poor, to mix freely with us in our parish churches—and a certain book which much concerns churchgoers speaks with no uncertain voice on the subject—we must return and do what we can for ourselves; but this means building churches and the regular priesthood." These little volumes should be read, not only by advocates and partisans, but by the many who profess to consider fairly the great social and political subjects of the day.

The Book of Prophecy, &c., &c. By George Smith, LL.D. (Longmans).—"When a volume is presented to the public, they have a right to know the author's reasons for its publication. In the present instance this natural desire shall be gratified by a simple statement of facts." Such is the considerate exordium of Dr. Smith's preface. His reasons resolve themselves into this: that he has been "shocked and distressed" by the recent attacks upon the Bible and upon revealed truth in general, and "has relinquished an important public position, and highly-valued associations, that he might be able by the diligent use of the fragments of time thus saved, to raise his voice against these fearful evils, and in behalf of truth, righteousness, and common sense. The result is seen in the volume now submitted to the public." Whether it is that "fragments of time" are not sufficient for the great work which Dr. Smith essayed—for he tells

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us that "it has not been the principal object of the author to refute error, but to exhibit and establish the truth"—or whether the author was not equal to the task, we shall not venture to determine. Certain, however, it is that all competent judges will agree with him in his own modest estimate of his book; for he tells us "he is well aware that his work is not equal to the occasion that called it forth." (p. v.) This being the case, we must think that Dr. Smith would have exercised a sounder discretion, and have done better service to the cause he has at heart, by the exercise of less self-denial and more forbearance. He might, we mean, have retained his "important position," and forborne to publish this worse than unnecessary book; for nothing can be more damaging to the cause of truth than its injudicious or incompetent advocacy. The old popular works on prophecy, by Newton and Keith, and other plagiarists, have anticipated all that Dr. Smith can tell us on this subject; and if it were absolutely necessary to republish such theories of unfulfilled prophecy as, e.g., that the kingdom of Antichrist is to be a Triumvirate, comprising Popery, Infidelity, and Mahometanism (for even this is not original), it might have been done in a volume of much more moderate dimensions.

Libri Precum Publicarum Ecclesie Anglicane Versio Latina. A Gualtero Bright et Petro Goldsmith Medd. (Rivingtons.)—This Latin version of the Prayer-book, by two Fellows of University College, Oxford, will be hailed with satisfaction by all who are anxious that foreign theologians should have an opportunity of forming a just estimate of the Anglican Church, which has been hitherto as much traduced by Roman Catholic writers as it has been misrepresented by many of its own semi-dissenting members on the continent of Europe. The principle upon which the version has been formed is explained in a modest preface by the editors. The Psalms, Epistles, and Gospels, with whatever else is derived from Holy Scripture, is given in the vulgate version. The prayers and other formularies which were retained from the pre-Reformation office books are given in their old Latin version. This principle is so obviously the correct one, that we were amazed to see that the editors have been called upon to defend it in a letter to the *Times*; from which letter we further learn that the Christian Knowledge Society is actually contemplating a Latin version of the Prayer-book, on the principle of re-translating both the Scriptures and the prayers!!

Our Founder's Vow: a Sermon at the Dedication of the Chapel of St. John's College, Hurstpierpoint, Oct. 17, 1865. By H. P. Liddon. (Rivingtons.)—The great fault we have to find with this discourse is that it says nothing about the Founder, or what his vow was. We can understand very well that this was quite unnecessary for those who heard the sermon; but when it was prepared for the press, some information of the kind should have been inserted. Praise is given to "the fellows and masters of this college," who, we presume from the use of the singular in the title, were not the founders, but on the foundation. In other respects the sermon is a very happy one. The natural comparison of David, who could not personally fulfil his vow, and a Founder, whose wishes are carried out by those who inherit his wealth, is carefully brought out. Mr. Liddon has done well to print it: and it will long serve as the pattern for innumerable imitations on similar occasions.

Moxon's Miniature Poets: Selections from Wordsworth. (Moxon & Co.)—The new volume of Messrs. Moxon's series, with a very elegant little biographical essay by Mr. Palgrave, will certainly not discredit either in execution or propriety of selection the taste which has hitherto presided over that miniature library. The family of the poet himself have interested themselves in the work, and reposed full confidence in the editor. Mr. Palgrave starts the idea, that could we thoroughly examine the man, "the poem might be predicted from the poet." This, no doubt, would be true if we could separate the workman from his work. However, we cannot criticize what has not yet been attempted, and in the absence of such an undertaking the reader must be satisfied with a short account of Wordsworth, viewed in relation to his writings.

The Whole Works of Roger Ascham, now First Collected and Revised, with a Life of the Author. By the Rev. Dr. Giles. 4 Vols. (J. R. Smith.)

—This is the first time the works of Roger Ascham have ever been collected. Forty fresh letters, hitherto existing only in MS., have been detected by the industry of the editor. Facsimiles of the title-pages and tail-pieces to the original editions of the more important works have been given, a practice now becoming very common, and which cannot be too highly commended. An argument is prefixed to each of Ascham's Latin letters, which enables those who do not care to toil through the learned style of the writer to follow the thread of his correspondence. The date is affixed, also, in all cases where it has been possible to ascertain it, Dr. Giles having come to the conclusion, after much research, that Ascham followed the new style, as we now use it. This must be the standard edition of Roger Ascham; its cheapness and accuracy render it indispensable to those who cherish a fondness for the preceptor of Lady Jane Grey and Elizabeth.

Common Words with Curious Derivations. By Archdeacon Smith, M.A., Vicar of Erith. (Bell and Daldy.)—Mr. Smith's theory that many, or indeed most, of the English words which come from the Latin, have been derived immediately from the French, is very ill-founded. The Romans must have introduced their language themselves into the province of Britain, and the barbarous Latin of the Dark Ages gave birth to mongrel idioms and words which differed slightly according to the locality. This propensity leads him into very curious mistakes. Thus he derives "bombast" from *bombax*, cotton; whereas *βουβίω* and *βούβοξ* are as old as Homer, and *βούβαξ* and *βουβάξω* occur in Aristophanes. Greek derivations are Mr. Smith's weak point. The printer's "ream" does not come from *ῥέσμιος*, but from *ῥύμα*, that which is drawn; and "ribbon" most probably from *ῥύβδην*, *ῥοιβδην*, forms of *ῥύδην*, flowingly. He does not seem to be aware that *σπαράζω* and *σπαράσθω* are genuine Attic. As a contribution to some perfect work of the kind, this will, however, not be without its value.

Waterloo: a Story of the Hundred Days; being a Sequel to "The Conscript." Translated from the French of M. Erckmann Chatrain. (Smith, Elder, & Co.)—The great popularity which has attended the English edition of M. Chatrain's earlier work has naturally induced the publishers to issue a translation of the second of those two novels. The tale of Waterloo has often been told, yet it will never lose its interest. Certainly not in the hands either of the author or of his translator. It is enough to say that this concluding "war idyll" will be as widely circulated as its predecessor.

A Treatise on Smoky Chimneys. By F. Edwards, jun. Third and Cheaper Edition. (Hardwicke.)—The fact of this treatise having reached a third edition is sufficient to prove that something may be done to cure the evil against which it is directed, and also that Mr. Edwards has shown the way. But no one must suppose there is any panacea against smoky chimneys. The disease has various causes, which depend upon the original constitution of the patient. Fifteen are enumerated. But they may be classed in three divisions. There are chimneys that smoke in consequence of a descending current existing in the chimney, irrespective of wind; chimneys that smoke in consequence of a descent of wind; and chimneys that smoke in consequence of their being too small. Into all these causes Mr. Edwards enters most elaborately, and gives us excellent diagrams to illustrate his meaning.

We have received *The Fundamental Truths of Christianity*, by Chr. Ernst Luthardt, translated from the third edition, by S. Taylor (Clark, Edinburgh); *Robert Dalby and his World of Troubles* (Chapman and Hall); *On the Treatment of Disease of the Throat and Lungs*, by Dr. W. Abbotts Smith—second edition (Hardwicke); *The Story of David and Jonathan*, a Sunday book (Hatchard); *Thirteenth Annual Report of the Council of the City of Manchester on the Public Free Libraries, 1864-65* (Heywood, Manchester); *The Harveian Oration, 1865*, by Dr. H. W. Acland (Macmillan); *The Primary Charge of the Archbishop of Dublin* (Macmillan; Hodges and Smith, Dublin.) Letts and Co. have also sent us specimen copies of their diaries for 1866. These scarcely require any recommendation from us. The binding in different styles has been very carefully attended to this year; and such is the demand for them, that a separate building is being erected for their printing and manufacture.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE WEEK.

- ARTEMUS Ward: His Book; or, the Confessions and Experiences of a Showman. With an Introduction by George Augustus Sala. Cr. 8vo, sd., pp. 96. Ward & Lock. 6d.
- AUSTIN (Alfred). Won by a Head. A Novel. 3 Vols. Post 8vo, pp. 895. Chapman & Hall. 31s. 6d.
- AUSTRALIAN Babes in the Wood (The). A True Story. Told in Rhyme for the Young, by the Author of "Little Jessie," &c. Illustrated. Sq. cr. 8vo, bds., pp. 47. Griffith & Farran. 1s. 6d.
- BALLANTYNE (R. M.). The Lifeboat; a Tale of our Coast Heroes With Illustrations. 3rd Edition. Fcap. 8vo, pp. vii.—392. Nisbet. 5s.
- BARHAM (R. H.). The Ingoldsby Legends; or, Mirth and Marvels by Thomas Ingoldsby, Esquire. Carmine Edition. Post 8vo, pp. xi.—468. Bentley. 10s. 6d.
- BONAR (Rev. Andrew A.). Palestine for the Young. With Illustrations. Sq. cr. 8vo, pp. 368. Religious Tract Society. 6s.
- BOULTON and Watt, Lives of. Principally from the original Soho MSS. Comprising also a History of the Invention and Introduction of the Steam-Engine. By Samuel Smiles. With Portraits and Illustrations. 8vo, pp. xvi.—521. Murray. 21s.
- BOWMAN (Anne). Boy Pilgrims. With Illustrations. Fcap. 8vo, pp. xii.—429. Routledge. 3s. 6d.
- CARPENTER. Penny Readings in Prose and Verse. Selected and Edited by J. E. Carpenter. Vol. 4. Fcap. 8vo, bds., pp. 248. Warne. 1s.
- CASTLE Connor; a Poem in Four Cantos, &c. Post 8vo. Smart & Allen. 2s. 6d.
- CHILDREN'S Friend (The). Vol. 5. 1865. Small 4to, bds., pp. 188. Seeleys. 1s. 6d.
- CHILDREN'S Prize (The). Edited by J. Erskine Clarke, M.A. 1865. Sq. 8vo, pp. 187. Macintosh. 2s.
- CHILD'S Companion (The), and Juvenile Instructor. 1865. 18mo, pp. 380. Religious Tract Society. 1s. 6d.
- CRAIK (Georgiana M.). Faith Unwin's Ordeal. 2 Vols. Post 8vo, pp. 620. Smith & Elder. 21s.
- CROSLAND (Mrs. Newton). Island of the Rainbow. A Fairy Tale. And other Fancies. Illustrated. 18mo, pp. 131. Routledge. 1s. 6d.
- CUMMING (Rev. John, D.D., F.R.S.E.). Behold, the Bridegroom Cometh. The Last Warning Cry. With Reasons for the Hope that is in Me. Sm. cr. 8vo, pp. x.—360. Nisbet. 5s.
- DAVIES (Rev. C. B.). Arithmetical Tables (in Rhyme). 12mo, sd. Dean. 6d.
- DE PORQUET (L. P. R. F.). German Tresor. 6th Edition. 12mo. Simpkin. 3s. 6d.
- Petit Secrétaire Parisien. 22nd Edition. 12mo. Simpkin. 3s. 6d.
- DICKENS' (Charles) Works. Cheap Edition. Hard Times, and Pictures from Italy. Post 8vo, pp. iv.—304. Chapman & Hall. 3s. 6d.
- The Uncommercial Traveller. New Edition. Post 8vo, pp. viii.—204. Chapman & Hall. 3s.
- ELLIS (Edward S.). On the Plains; or, the Race for Life. A Story of Adventure among the Black Hills. (Beadle's American Library, No. 58). Fcap. 8vo, sd., pp. 128. Beadle. 6d.
- FLACK (Captain). Texan Rifle Hunter. Post 8vo. J. Maxwell. 10s. 6d.
- GASKELL (Mrs.). Cousin Phillis; and Other Tales. Illustrated Edition. Post 8vo, pp. 286. Smith & Elder. 3s. 6d.
- GREENWOOD (James). The Hatchet Throwers. With Thirty-six Illustrations by Ernest Grisel. 4to, pp. vi.—164. Hotten. Plain, 6s.; coloured, 7s. 6d.
- HARRY Lawton's Adventures; or, a Young Sailor's Wanderings in Strange Lands. With Numerous Illustrations. Sm. 4to, pp. vi.—140. Seeleys. 6s.
- HAYS (M. M.). Adrienne Hope. The Story of a Life. 2 Vols. Post 8vo. Newby. 21s.
- HEART'S Looking-Glass (The); or, the Character Discovered. By the Author of "The Minister's Letters," &c., &c. Cr. 8vo, sd., pp. 36. Simson & Groombridge (Hertford). Simpkin. 4d.
- HILLIER (O. P.). Pocahontas; or, The Founding of Virginia. A Poem. 12mo. Hatchard. 2s. 6d.
- HODGES (George Samuel, B.A.). Ruth: a Sacred Idyll of Harvest-tide; and other Poems. Post 8vo, sd., pp. 75. Bradbury (Bolton). Simpkin. 1s. 6d.
- HOLMES (Oliver Wendell). Autocrat of the Breakfast Table With Illustrations. Fcap. 8vo, pp. xii.—329. Strahan. 6s.
- HOOD (Tom). Jingles and Jokes for the Little Folks. Illustrated by C. H. Bennett, &c. Sq. cr. 8vo, pp. 76. Cassell. 6s.
- ILLUSTRATED Ditties of the Olden Time. With Engravings. New Edition. Sm. 4to. Dean. 6s.
- IRISHMAN (The). By an Irishwoman. Fcap. 8vo, sd., pp. 79. Beeton. 1s.
- MELVILLE (G. J. Whyte). Brookes of Bridlemere. 4th Edition. Post 8vo, pp. 419. Chapman & Hall. 6s.
- MITFORD. Tales and Stories. Selected by Mary Mitford. With Coloured Illustrations. Fcap. 8vo, pp. 367. Warne. 3s. 6d.
- MOORE (James, M.R.C.V.S.). Plain Directions for the Prevention of the Cattle Plague, and for its Successful Treatment by Homoeopathy. 8vo, sd., pp. 12. Simpkin. 6d.
- MYSTICAL Beast (The) of the Revelation. With his Name and Number, by Bibliarius. Fcap. 8vo. Bagster. 1s. 4d.
- OUR Curate's Budget. Vol. 2. Edited by the Rev. William Mitchell, M.A. Fcap. 8vo. Hodges (Frome Selwood). J. H. & J. Parker. 2s.
- PAUL Ferroll. A Tale. (Smith & Elder's Monthly Volume of Standard Authors.) Fcap. 8vo, sd., pp. 258. Smith & Elder. 1s.
- PINNOCK (W.). Comprehensive English Grammar. 10th Edition. 12mo. Simpkin. 4s. 6d.
- PLAUTUS, Comedies of, Construed Literally and Word for Word, by the Rev. Dr. Giles. 1. Trinummius and Miles Gloriosus. (Keys to the Classics.) 18mo, sd., pp. 192. Cornish. 2s. 6d.
- RATES and TAXES, and How they were Collected. Edited by T. Hood. Sm. post 8vo, pp. xi.—274. Groombridge. 6s.
- RECREATIONS Françaises. Petits Drame pour la Jeunesse. 10mo. Relfe. 6s.
- REID (William, M.A.). The Praise Book: being "Hymns of Praise." With accompanying Tunes. Harmonies written or revised by Henry Edward Dibdin. Roy. 8vo. Nisbet. 7s. 6d.
- ROUSE (John William). Manual of County Courts Equitable Jurisdiction. Cr. 8vo. Stevens & Sons. 4s. 6d.
- SCRIPTURE Histories for Little Children. By the Author of "Mamma's Bible Stories," &c. The Lives of Joseph and Moses. With Illustrations. Sq. 12mo. Griffith & Farran. 2s.
- The Life and Miracles of Our Saviour. With Illustrations. Sq. 12mo. 2s.
- SERVANT'S Magazine (The). Vol. 3. New Series. 18mo. Houlston. 1s. 6d.
- SIX Months at Freshwater. A Seaside Tale for Children. 16mo, pp. 146. Griffith & Farran. 3s. 6d.
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ROBERT SOUTHWELL.*

IT is not possible for any one to wander about Rome without being affected sometimes by the spirit of devotion, and sometimes by that of poetry. Few Englishmen, however, connect the vast and gloomy barracks of the Gesù with either one idea or the other; and a French novelist has done his best to dispel whatever reverence, though by no means whatever terrors, its priestly population so long threw over its innumerable cells and never-ending corridors.

But the order of Jesus has had its hot youth like other societies. The corpse of Loyola was scarcely cold, when Farnese laid the foundations of that splendid temple on the high altar of which the saint stands in silver, and under which his canonized bones are coffered in gold. Since the last of the Templars had summoned a pope and a king with his dying breath to meet him before the throne of God, no such powerful fraternity had laid down individual independence to achieve collective omnipotence. The palace of the General, for such it was, rose up before the missionary Xavier, when dying under the rigours of a Chinese winter, like Jerusalem before the banished David. In every country, and in every town, its priests, its scholars, its statesmen, its warriors, and even its kings, formed links in the lengthening chain which the associate dragged with him at every remove from Rome.

No wonder that to be enrolled in such a band was an object of ambition to the English lad, whose parents, under Elizabeth, still adhered to their ancestral faith. It was the aim of the Society to embrace within its excellence of every kind, and to play upon every weakness. The finger of Providence was detected in the recovery of Robert Southwell from the gipsy's tent. The changeling of an hour was urged to place his future beyond the possibility of all earthly alteration. And the lesson was not thrown away on the youth of sixteen, who cried out to be adopted into "that body in which is placed my life, my love, my whole heart, and everything that I have." Such an appeal it was no part of the fathers to resist. Rome completed what Douay had begun. It is not every one whose religious enthusiasm is quenched by familiarity with the Papal Court. The devotion of Southwell to his order was unparalleled, except by Loyola himself; and the hours the aspirant could spare from the prescribed discipline would be proudly spent in watching the rising walls of the richest church in Rome.

Difficult as it is to decide from internal evidence the date of Southwell's poems, here we have the usual belongings of an Italian monk:—

The gown which I do use to wear,
The knife wherewith I cut my meat,
And eke that old and ancient chair,
Which is my only usual seat.

And here the mature ratification of his calling:—

My choice was guided by foresightful heed,
It was averred with approving will;
It shall be followed with performing deed,
And sealed with vow, till death the chooser kill.

Southwell returned to England a foreigner at heart, and a felon in law. He was one

* The Poetical Works of the Rev. Robert Southwell, now first completely edited by W. B. Turnbull. (J. R. Smith. 1856.)

of that devoted band, the Fathers Vaughan of the day, who said—

The solitary wood
My city shall become;
The darkest dens shall be my lodge,
In which I rest or come,

and who only issued from the "priest's chamber" to console the dying at the peril of their own lives. Still he was young, and though love in its ordinary form is forbidden to the Romish priest,

The saddest birds a season find to sing,

and before he could find an ideal on which he might gaze without fear of breaking his vow, he seems to have struggled like an ordinary mortal:—

With my love my life was nestled
In the sun of happiness;
From my love my life is wrested
To a world of heaviness:
Oh! let love my life remove
'Sith I live not where I love.

The worship of the Virgin-Mother is a puzzle to the Protestant mind. We respect our matrons, but we do not adore them. And as we have no recognized class who are bachelors by profession, we do not understand the necessity of a female element to which the better half of our prayers should be directed; but there is no doubt the "Queen of Heaven" has been a protection to many of the Romish priesthood against mundane desires. And Southwell could incorporate with her the more instant charms of the greatest beauty of his age. In the eyes of a Catholic, Mary of Scotland united to the common name many of the attributes both of the Magdalen and of the mother of Jesus. The Virgin, indeed, reversed Mary's career, and lived a saint on earth to gain a kingdom only in heaven. But this would be no obstacle to a poet. If, as a woman, Mary had loved too much, she had always been entitled to reverence as a sovereign. The true reason of her death obliterated all her faults. No one could deny that she died on account of her religion. By every custom, and every precedent, she must rank amongst the glorious army of martyrs. The fatal news would reach Rome just as Southwell set out on a journey which both his friends and superiors knew could but terminate in the same way. The repentance of the Magdalen, the purity of the Virgin, and the royalty of the Queen, composed his ideal of a patron saint; and it is but one shape, though under many names, which says—

O my soul! that did unloose thee
From thy sweet captivity;

And—

God's spice I was, and pounding was my due,
In fading breath my incense favour'd best.

Or, at last—

Faint-winged fowl by ground do faintly fly,
Our princely eagle mounts into the sky,

which is nominally referred to "The Assumption of Our Lady."

The strong religious excitement in which Southwell must have passed the six active years of his life would seem to have turned all his earthly love into gall. His verse has its full share of the conceits of the Elizabethan period, but his Anacreontics are invectives against Cupid and his flowers:—

Your garden grief's hedged in with thorns of envy
And stakes of strife;
Your allies error gravel'd with jealousy
And cares of life;
Your branches seats enwrap'd with shades of [sadness;
Your arbours breed rough fits of raging madness.

At last, the fairyland of poetry seemed too suggestive of illusion in itself; to use his own words in prose, his ideal saint "had so firmly bound his thoughts to her affection alone, that he rather desired to unknow those whom he knew already, than to burthen his mind with the knowledge of any new acquaintance; he could not force his will, long since possessed with the highest love, to stoop to the acceptance of any meaner friendship."

But with all this experience of women and their love, Southwell was at last betrayed with a kiss; and he had much more reason to cry shame on his religious Delilah than St. Peter on the servant-maids of Pilate in his "Complaint":—

O women! woe to men; traps for their falls;
Still actors in all tragical mischances;
Earth's necessary ills, captivating thralls,
Now murdering with your tongues, now with your glances.

The shriving of fair penitents is not generally thought to be the most disagreeable occupations of a religious confessor; and when the bait was further spiced with the prospect of restoring a lost ewe lamb to the true fold, no wonder the cunning of a daughter of Eve was too much for the prudence of even an accomplished Jesuit. Torture and death were the natural results of a capture by the bloodhound Topcliffe, who must have the credit of suggesting the Gunpowder Plot, when he said, that "if his power was equal to his will, his dearest pleasure would be to blow every Catholic to powder in the air." Southwell's only hope of escape from the Tower lay in a speedy transit to the scaffold. He might weigh the arguments for suicide in verse:—

If Saul's attempt in falling on his blade,
As lawful were as eth to put in ure,
If Samson's lean a common law were made,
Of Abel's lot if all that would were sure,
Then, cruel death, thou shouldst the tyrant play
With none but such as wished for delay.

But he had always hoped for the martyr's crown. "We have now, God be thanked! such martyr-makers in authority as mean, if they have their will, to make saints enough to furnish all our churches with treasure, when it shall please God to restore them to their true honours." The admiration his fortitude extorted from Cecil might perhaps have saved him from death. And he tempted the Minister in the same spirit that the early Christians goaded the sluggish tigers in the circus; and trial and sentence were briefly ordered; for "if he was in so much haste to be hanged, he should have his desire." So soft, so sweet was his ending, that the very mob would not allow the butchery of the age to be carried out, and the last indignities of the law were spared, by the grace of that public compassion which will sometimes overrule even the warrant of a despot—

The bud was opened to let out the rose,
The chains unloosed to let the captive go.

MISCELLANEA.

At the meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, last Monday, previous to the reading of the papers, the president announced, with great regret, that since the last meeting news had been received of the disastrous termination of two African expeditions in which the society had taken great interest. The first was the East African expedition, fitted out at great cost by the Baron C. von der Decken, a Hanoverian nobleman (the verifier of the existence of snowy mountains in Equatorial Africa), whose party had been in collision with the natives, and whose

two steamers had come to grief on the bar of the river Jub. This unwelcome news had been received by Colonel Playfair, our consul at Zanzibar, now in England. The other was M. du Chaillu's expedition into the interior from Fernand Vaz, in Western Equatorial Africa. It appears after having reached a point about 400 miles from the coast, an unhappy brawl arose between the black servants of M. du Chaillu's party and the surrounding natives, during which one of the native black women was accidentally shot by one of du Chaillu's servants. In spite of the offer on du Chaillu's part of compensation, an encounter took place, during which the traveller was severely wounded by poisoned arrows, and his servants threw away all the scientific instruments, with which a series of most valuable astronomical observations had been taken. These observations, as well as the journals of the expedition, were fortunately preserved, and we hear that it is in contemplation to publish them as early as possible. We believe that an account of his travels will be laid before the Royal Geographical Society at an early meeting; whilst a description of the physical and cranial characters of the natives will be read before the Anthropological Society of London. The return of M. du Chaillu to the coast was accompanied by great privation, and the loss of most of the collections which he had made will be very disastrous to science. M. du Chaillu has arrived in England.

THE Moa's egg, not having found a purchaser at a price adequate to its value in the eyes of the owner, is about to be reshipped to New Zealand. It may perhaps be interesting to recall a few facts on the subject of gigantic birds' eggs. In 1854, M. Geoffroy de St. Hilaire exhibited to the French Academy some eggs of the Epyornis, a bird which formerly lived in Madagascar. The larger of these was 12.1 inches long, and 11.8 inches wide. The smaller one was slightly less than this. The Museum d'Histoire Naturelle at Paris also contains two eggs, both of which are larger than the one recently put up for sale, the longer axis of which measures 10 inches, and the shorter 7 inches. In the discussion which followed the reading of M. de St. Hilaire's paper, M. Valenciennes stated it was quite impossible to judge of the size of a bird by the size of its egg, and gave several instances in point. Mr. Strickland, in some "Notices of the Dodo and its Kindred," published in the "Annals of Natural History" for November, 1849, says that in the previous year a Mr. Dumarele, a highly respectable French merchant at Bourbon, saw at Port Leven, Madagascar, an enormous egg, which held "thirteen wine quart bottles of fluid." The natives stated that the egg was found in the jungle, and "observed that such eggs were very, very rarely met with." Mr. Strickland appears to doubt this, but there seems no reason to do so. Allowing a pint and a-half to each of the so-called "quarts," the egg would hold 19½ pints. Now, the larger egg exhibited by St. Hilaire held 17½ pints, as he himself proved. The difference is not so very great. A word or two about the nests of such gigantic birds. Captain Cook found, on an island near the north-east coast of New Holland, a nest "of a most enormous size. It was built with sticks upon the ground, and was no less than six and twenty feet in circumference, and two feet eight inches high." (Kerr's "Collection of Voyages and Travels," xiii., 318.) Captain Flinders found two similar nests on the south coasts of New Holland, in King George's Bay. In his "Voyage, &c.," London, 1818, he says, "they were built upon the ground, from which they rose above two feet, and were of vast circumference and great interior capacity; the branches of trees and other matter of which each nest was composed being enough to fill a cart."

THE Gladstone Memorial Fund has offered to place a bust of Mr. Gladstone by Woolner in the Bodleian Library.

A MEETING is to be held at noon to-day, in the Chapter-house at Westminster, Dean Stanley in the chair, at which Mr. Scott will read a paper pointing out the architectural features of the building, and advocating its perfect restoration.

THE *Contemporary Review* is the title of a Broad Church monthly journal of criticism, theological, literary, and social, which is to appear on the 1st of January.

THE monument erected to Thackeray in Westminster Abbey was uncovered on the 21st ult. It consists of a bust, by Baron Marochetti, upon a base of red serpentine, mounted on a bronze support, bearing a simple record of the name

and of the dates of birth and of death. It is fixed against a wall-column in the south transept behind the statue of Addison.

MR. J. H. PARKER, the proprietor of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, being anxious to remain upon the Continent to an extent not compatible with due attention to its management, has placed it in the market for sale. The December number completes the 135th year of the labours of Sylvanus Urban, it having been started by Cave, the printer, at St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, in 1731. It will in future be published by Messrs. Bradbury, Evans, and Co., Whitefriars. Mr. E. Walford, of Balliol College, it is said, will probably be both proprietor and editor of the magazine in January.

THE election of the first scholar on the new foundation of the M'Mahon Law Scholarship took place at Cambridge on Tuesday. Mr. H. F. Pooley, B.A., first senior optime and twenty-second second-class classic, 1863, was the successful candidate. These studentships on the foundation of the late Mr. M'Mahon are of the value of 150*l.* per annum, tenable for four years, and are open to any bachelor of arts or bachelor of law of St. John's College, not of sufficient standing to take the master's degree, who shall *bona fide* intend to prepare himself for practice in the profession of the law.

WE are informed, says the *Guardian*, that the sketches in *Punch* signed "G.B.M." are the production, not of a young lady at Manchester, but of a young artist, a native of Tisbury, Wilts, Mr. G. B. Goddard.

LADY THERESA LEWIS, whose death occurred last week while on a visit to the Principal of Brasenose, was the only daughter of the late Hon. George Villiers, and sister of the Earl of Clarendon. She was born March 8, 1803, and married first, Nov. 6, 1830, to Mr. T. H. Lister, of Armitage Park, Staffordshire, who died June 5, 1842; and secondly, Oct. 26, 1844, the late Right Hon. Sir George Cornwall Lewis, Bart., but was again left a widow in the early part of 1863. Her novels, "The Semi-Detached House," and "The Semi-Attached Couple," are full of wit and lively observation. She was also the author of "Lives from the Clarendon Gallery," and the editor of "Miss Berry's Memoirs," which we have but recently reviewed. She leaves issue by her first husband. Her first husband, Mr. Lister, was the author of "Granby," one of the most popular novels of its day.

THE death is also announced of Major David Lester Richardson, who was for some years the proprietor and editor of the *Court Circular*. Major Richardson was born in the year 1801, and had seen long service in India. He was at one time the editor of the *Bengal Hurkaru*, and is author of several scientific and literary works.

IN the January number of *London Society* will commence the first part of "Up and Down the London Streets," by Mark Lemon.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL GLENCAIRN BURNS, the youngest son and last survivor of the poet's family, died on the 18th ult., in his seventy-second year, at Cheltenham, where he had been a resident for many years.

THE readership of the Temple Church has become vacant by the resignation of the Rev. J. G. Lonsdale. The salary is 300*l.* a-year. Applications and testimonials must be sent to the Inner Temple Treasurer's office before the 9th inst.

THE Chapel Royal of the Savoy, the greater portion of which was destroyed by fire in July last year, has been restored under Mr. Sydney Smirke, at the cost of Her Majesty, as Duchess of Lancaster. The altar window is a memorial window to the late Prince Consort. The font is presented by Mrs. De Wint, the widow of the water-colour painter, as a memorial to him and to his brother. Mr. Burgess, of the Strand, the brother of the late Bishop of Salisbury, has presented an elegantly-carved oak pulpit to the chapel, which was reopened for divine service on Sunday last, Dean Stanley preaching the sermon at morning service, and Mr. Maurice in the evening. The Dean observed that the Savoy "was the cradle of our English Prayer-book, completed in the chapel, and in Sheldon's lodgings adjoining. Thence issued the strange and passionate declaration of assent and consent to all and everything contained in the book—now, thank God, swept away, after being a stumbling-block to so many consciences. The Prayer-book was now a bond of union to all classes and parties. Whatever its faults, it was dear to Churchmen and the majority of the nation, for its style and diction (it had been a model of style to our greatest English writers), for its antiquity, for its compre-

hensiveness. It was comprehensive as regarded ritualism and anti-ritualism; it gave a triumph to neither party; and that Savoy Chapel was a proof that not a black or white gown, not the position of the altar, nor consecration or non-consecration (the Royal Chapel has never yet been consecrated), were half so important as faith, and keeping the commandments of God."

Der Cogitant is the name of a new monthly magazine published in October at Berlin. It is edited by the notorious Dr. Edward Löwenthal, the founder of a new religion without a creed, of a new cultus without worship, and of a new system of nature, which declares gravitation and attraction to be mere idle school fancies, that light and warmth do not proceed from the sun, and other like novelties, and is intended to be the organ of the new philosophy. Its full title is: *Der Cogitant, Flugblätter für Freunde Naturalistischer Weltanschauung*.

MESSRS. GROOMBRIDGE and SONS commence the *Household: a Magazine of Domestic Economy and Home Enjoyment*, to be published monthly.

IT is well known that the members of the Royal Family of Sweden cultivate the muses with tolerable success. The daughters of Mr. Martin Tupper have translated several of these Royal lyrics, which they will add to the new edition of the "Poems by Three Sisters."

TRUBNER'S *American and Oriental Record* contains a very perfect list of the "Literature of the Argentine Republic," in which will be found the title of every book of importance published in Buenos Ayres since 1812, the first bibliography of this portion of the South American continent yet attempted.

MR. QUARITCH, of Piccadilly, is the London agent for "The History of Block Printing and the Early History of Engraving before A. Dürer," by Mr. T. O. Weigel, the well-known bookseller and auctioneer of Leipsig. The impression is limited to 325 copies.

AN interesting relic, a large vessel, supposed to be of the second century, found during the late war, buried in the sand at Sundewitt, near Westerstrap, has been lodged in the Town Hall of Flensburg, in Schleswig. Though decayed, with the aid of a few iron clamps, its original form and aspect have been well preserved. It is 80ft. in length, 12ft. broad amidships, with 4ft. 2in. depth of hold at the same part. Its height from the keel at the prow is 9ft. 9in., and at the poop 10ft. 10in. When discovered it contained a quantity of arms, such as spears, arrows, axes, &c., some household utensils, objects of art, and a number of well-preserved Roman coins of the second century. The latter have been sent to Copenhagen.

THE great ant-eater in the Jardin des Plantes has died. An unsuccessful attempt, it will be remembered, was also made to keep one alive at the Zoological Gardens in the Regent's Park.

LONDONERS who wish to retain the great foundation schools in the metropolis for the use of London boys, according to the founders' intentions, will hear with surprise that an attempt is being made by the Mercers' Company to remove St. Paul's School out of town. The site of the present edifice is one of the most valuable in London, and as a mere matter of pounds, shillings, and pence, no doubt, the foundation would be benefited by the exchange; but St. Paul's School is essentially one of the best day-schools in the metropolis, within walking distance of all its suburbs. The Mercers' Company have given public notice that it is their intention to apply to Parliament for leave to bring in a bill empowering them to pull down and sell the present site of the school in St. Paul's Churchyard, and to erect new school-houses, "either in or out of the metropolis," as also to increase the number of scholars, and to provide for their board and lodging, together with sundry other changes.

WE regret to announce the death of Mr. T. J. Pettigrew, in his 75th year, at his house in Onslow Crescent, South Kensington, on the 23rd ult. Mr. Pettigrew's earliest publication was a medical thesis on "The Basin of the Brain and Cranium," in 1809. In 1817 he published "Memoirs of the Life and Writings of Dr. Lettsom," in three vols. 8vo, printing off some copies of the eulogium prefixed in a separate form. When the Duke of Sussex resided at Kensington Palace, his Royal Highness gave Mr. Pettigrew the post of librarian, and the splendid collection of Bibles and Biblical literature described in the "Bibliotheca Sussexiana," of which two volumes were printed under Mr. Pettigrew's care in 1827—1839, is a proof of the assiduity with which he

THE READER.

2 DECEMBER, 1865.

SCIENCE.

ENGLISH BOTANY.

Sowerby's English Botany. Third Edition. Edited by J. T. B. Syme. Enlarged, Re-arranged according to the Natural Orders, and entirely Revised, with Descriptions of all the Species, by the Editor, and Popular Notes by Mrs. Lankester. 4 Vols. (Robert Hardwicke.)

SINCE 1863 the botanical public have been delighted by the periodic issue of this magnificent work, and up to the present time four volumes have been completed, which include rather more than one-third of our flora. The plates have been prepared with unusual care, the colouring is exceedingly natural, and in no case is it exaggerated; whilst, with very few exceptions, the engraving is sharp and clear; and as works of art these plates could scarcely be excelled, whilst they contain all that detail which is so essential to the botanist.

At the present time, when there is so much difference of opinion as to the value of the word species, and as botanists are daily becoming more convinced that no definite limits can be assigned to species, it has required more than ordinary care and skill to select figures of typical forms and varieties, and in this task the editor has been peculiarly successful. In the difficult genus *Rubus* a most splendid series of types have been selected, and in a note on the subject the editor observes:—

Professor Babington's long and attentive study of this genus entitles him to be considered as the leading authority in Britain upon this subject. I have therefore followed his division of the brambles, only calling his species sub-species; although I must confess it appears to me arbitrary to stop where he does, for his species contain in several cases various groups of forms as distinct from each other as his species themselves.

The editor has, however, very judiciously abstained from giving figures of the whole of the Professor's thirty-six species of fruticose brambles, in many of which he confesses "it would be impossible to represent their distinctive characters in plates of the size of those in the 'English Botany.'"

Some botanists might have been better pleased if the present work had not contained so many figures of plants which must now be considered mere varieties; but we think, for our own part, it is much better as it is, although it is to be regretted that even under the term sub-species names should have been retained to swell the list of British plants. To take the single instance of *Ranunculus flammula*, one of the most variable plants, the editor gives descriptions of two sub-species and two varieties, *Ranunculus en-flammula* vars. α and β , and *R. reptans*. It is true both *R. flammula* and *R. reptans* were Linnean species, but it must be remembered that the great master of natural history did not know the long chain of connecting forms which unite the little dwarf spearwort of the sandy shores of Loch Leven and of the poor soils of the north of Europe with the erect herb so common in almost every wet and marshy pasture throughout central Europe and Russian Asia by such insensible gradations, that it becomes impossible to draw any limit between them. The plates of the two forms are unquestionably valuable, and if we must have two names, certainly the divisions into sub-species, and even the objectionable Greek prefix before a Latin specific name, are infinitely preferable to swelling the number of specific names, since the already too copious nomenclature of the botanist has always been, and will continue to be, the greatest obstacle to the science becoming popular.

The most interesting portion of this beautiful work, at least to the general reader, is from the pen of a lady, Mrs. Lankester, who is already known most favourably to the public by her scientific writings, which are full of learning and research, and yet are most graceful and amusing.

The third edition of the "English Botany"

will be a great addition to every library, as a critical work. The historian, the poet, the etymologist, as well as every student and lover of nature, will find ample information in Mrs. Lankester's notes on every subject connected with British botany. Two or three paragraphs, taken almost at random, will give some idea of their value and style. Writing on the Dog Rose, which is so nearly allied to our garden species, Mrs. Lankester has taken the opportunity, and given the readers of the "English Botany" a most delightful essay upon the rose, of which the following is a short extract:—

Englishmen exalt the rose as their national flower, for ever happily blended with the shamrock and thistle; but we must not forget that at one period of our history it was the symbol for internal war and bloodshed, when those that wore the red and white roses, as nearly related to each other as the flowers themselves, waged a deadly fight with each other, when, according to Shakespeare, Warwick says to Plantagenet—

This brawl to-day
Grown to this faction in the Temple Garden,
Shall send between the Red Rose and the White
A thousand souls to death and deadly night.

A prophecy which was but too fatally fulfilled.

The Union, or York-and-Lancaster rose, a very elegant variety, with mixed red and white petals, has been generally referred to the marriage of Henry VII. with Elizabeth, daughter of Edward IV., by which the animosity of the contending houses was happily and finally extinguished. An old author penned the following lines, worthy of Anacreon, on presenting a white rose to a Lancastrian lady:—

If this fair rose offend thy sight,
It in thy bosom wear,
'Twill blush to find itself less white,
And turn Lancastrian there.

The derivations of the English names of plants are often discussed at considerable length in these notes, and some of the deepest research and most interesting matter is connected with this subject.

In the note on the mistletoe we find the following:—

But the name occurs in all the northern Teutonic languages, and in its original form *Mistiltein*, the Icelandic word appears to signify simply a slender twig, alluding to the weakness and flexibility of the green stems. The word occurs in the "Voluspa," in the account of the death of Balder. Balder having dreamed that he should die, his mother Frigga extracted oaths from fire, water, iron, trees, and all existing things, that they would not harm him. When this was done the Asen rejoiced themselves, throwing all manner of weapons at him, but nothing would hurt him. Loke being enraged, took the form of an old woman, and asked Frigga if all things had sworn not to injure Balder. She replied, "There is a slender one called Mistiltein, growing far to the west of Valhalla, which seemed too young and feeble to demand an oath from."

And so the legend continues, and Loke gets blind Hoder to throw the mistletoe at Balder, who falls pierced through to the earth.

One more example, and we have almost done. In the note on the wood sorrel we find:—

There are but few walks or shady woods where, in early spring, this pretty little plant may not be found. The tiny white flowers, with delicate purple veins, are called by the Welsh "fairy bells," and are believed to ring the merry peals which call the elves to "moonlight dance and revelry." There seems to surround this little plant an atmosphere of mystery and legendary lore. It is said to be the true shamrock of Ireland, and many and warm disputes have there been to determine whether the name really belongs to the trefoil white clover or the three-leaved wood sorrel.

Those curious on such interesting subjects must search the work for themselves, and we can assure them that they will find much valuable information, spiced with the choicest quotations from authors who are again attracting attention; as—

And for my cloathing in a mantle goe,
And feed on shamroots as the Irish doe.

from George Wither's "Abuses Stript and Whipt."

fulfilled the duties of that office, no less than of the taste and ardour of the Royal Duke as an eminent book-collector. Upon the death of his Royal Highness the library was sold by auction, we believe at variance with an oft-expressed wish of its founder, and Mr. Pettigrew's avocation was gone. Mr. Pettigrew, during this period, also furnished the letter-press to "The Medical Portrait Gallery," of which four volumes were published by Messrs. Whittaker and Co. in 1838—1840. Mr. Pettigrew was a contributor to the *Philosophical Transactions*, the *Archæologia*, and the *Journal of the Archæological Society*, as well as to other serials and periodicals, and was amongst the earliest of those who, in our day, have made Egypt and its antiquities a separate study. We believe he was led to this by the successful unrolling of several mummies, and connected with the subject he wrote "A History of Egyptian Mummies, and an Account of the Worship and Embalming of the Animals of the Egyptians," in 1834, and a first number of an "Encyclopedia Egyptiaca," in 1842. He also published "On Superstitions Connected with the History and Practice of Medicine," in 1844; "A Letter to Dr. John Merewether on the Affairs of the Archæological Association," in 1845; "Memoirs of the Life of Vice-Admiral Nelson," in two vols. 8vo, in 1849; "Inquiry into the Death of Amy Robsart (Lady Dudley)," in 1859; and "Chronicles of the Tombs: a Select Collection of Epitaphs and other Monumental Inscriptions, with Incidental Observations on Sepulchral Antiquities," which forms one of the volumes of "Bohn's Antiquarian Library."

MESSRS. MAXWELL and Co. have in the press, "Woman all the World over," by H. Steinmetz, Author of "The Jesuit at Home," in 2 vols.;—"Autobiography of an Italian Detective," in 2 vols.;—"The Village Doctor," a novel, by William Gilbert;—"Angelo Lyons," a novel, by W. Platt, in 3 vols.;—"Fifty Years of a Solicitor's Life," 2 vols.;—"Frank Tresilis," a novel, in 3 vols.;—"Autobiography of an Actor," Edited by W. H. Hillyard, M.D., in 2 vols.;—"Knights of the White Cross," and "Streets of the World," by George Augustus Sala.

MR. PETER BAYNE has resigned the editorship of the *London and Edinburgh Weekly Review*, in consequence of his opinions on inspiration, set forth in an article in the *Fortnightly Review*, being considered by the English Presbyterians, the supporters of the former, as unorthodox.

MR. NEWBY announces that the number of copies ordered of the new novel "Common Sense," by the author of "Wondrous Strange," "Kate Kennedy," &c., being in excess of the number printed, the day of publication is postponed to the 19th inst., on which day the first and second editions will be issued simultaneously. "The Adventures of a Serf Wife in the Mines of Siberia" and "The Maitlands," a novel, are just ready. "The Christmas Tree," with three carols for stems, thirty-nine songs for branches, and a thousand lines for leaves, will shortly be issued.

THE widow of the late Mr. Thomas Thorpe, the eminent bookseller of Bedford Street, Covent Garden, is a candidate for the National Benevolent Institution.

THE *Guardian* of Wednesday publishes the correspondence between the Rev. Arthur Brock and Professor Tyndall, which has arisen out of the Professor's letter to the *Pall Mall Gazette* (Oct. 19th), on acts of national humiliation and prayer.

THE *New York Tribune* mentions the death of Mr. George Arnold at the age of thirty-one, at Strawberry Farm, N.J., in the first week in November. Mr. Arnold, who was a contributor to *Harper's Magazine* and other American periodicals, was an elegant song-writer, much in the style of Herick, and also the author of some rural poetry of great sweetness. His poems are about to be published.

SALES BY AUCTION DURING THE WEEK.

Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson, and Hodge: The continuation of the Library of the late John Colley, Esq., on Monday; a Collection of Engravings, the Property of an Amateur, deceased, on Wednesday; and the Select Library of a Gentleman, deceased, on Friday and Saturday.

Messrs. Foster: The Botanical and General Library of the late W. J. Burchell, D.C.L., on Tuesday.

MATHEMATICAL WRITINGS.

The Mathematical Writings of Duncan Farquharson Gregory, M.A., late Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. Edited by William Walton, M.A., Trinity College, Cambridge. With a Biographical Memoir by Robert Leslie Ellis, M.A., late Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. (Cambridge: Deighton, Bell, & Co. London: Bell & Daldy.)

A Treatise on Differential Equations. By George Boole, F.R.S., Professor of Mathematics in the Queen's University, Ireland, Honorary Member of the Cambridge Philosophical Society. Second Edition, Revised. (Macmillan & Co.)

THE province of analysis, to which the theory of elliptic functions belongs, has within the last twenty years assumed a new aspect. A great deal has, doubtless, been effected in other subjects, but in no other I think has our knowledge advanced so far beyond the limits to which it was not long since confined." So wrote Mr. Ellis, in a report of the theory of the Integrals of Algebraical Functions, which he presented to the British Association in 1846. His words may be repeated with equal truth in 1865, with reference to the extension of the higher branches of the Differential Calculus—Differential Equations and the Calculus of Finite Differences.

When the report above mentioned was written, these subjects were comparatively in their infancy. An impulse had been given to their study by the publication of a collection of examples by Peacock, Herschel, and Babbage; and it was to the energy with which it was taken up by such men as Gregory and Boole that the *Cambridge Mathematical Journal* owed its origin. The need of some such publication is thus stated in the preface to the first number: "It has been a regret with many persons that no proper channel existed, either in this University or elsewhere in this country, for the publication of papers on mathematical subjects which did not appear to be of sufficient importance to be inserted in the Transactions of any of the Scientific Societies; the two philosophical journals which do exist having their pages generally devoted to physical subjects."

Of this periodical Mr. Gregory was editor; it was devoted mainly to pure mathematics, Sir W. Hamilton, Ellis, Boole, and others contributing their researches, so that its volumes furnish an almost complete history of the progress of the Calculus, and a measure of the subsequent advance of the science of analysis. The journal cannot now be obtained, nor is it likely that it will ever be reprinted: the results of its investigations are reproduced in more formal treatises, and the history of their discovery is read to greater advantage in the pages of such a memoir as this of Mr. Gregory, which Mr. Walton has edited for us.

The book contains Mr. Gregory's contributions to the journal of which he was editor. The progress of analytical science has long deprived them of their original value, and left them landmarks of successive stages gained and passed, memorials of their author's genius and research. More they cannot claim to be. The most ordinary student will wonder at the exalted position assigned to results familiar to himself as household words. Who, for example, that is acquainted with the works of Dr. Salmon and others, can help being amused when he finds one of his favourite propositions mentioned amongst "curious properties of conic sections," as one that "was first given by Keill, but which seems to have been strangely neglected by the subsequent writers on this subject?"

Mr. Gregory died in 1844. In the Philosophical Transactions of the same year, appeared Mr. Boole's first great memoir. The fundamental theorem, that symbols of operation may be combined in the same way as algebraical quantities, is there ascribed to Mr. Gregory; and in a note we find the following tribute paid to his memory, "Few in so short a time have done so much for science. The high sense I entertain of his merits as a mathematician, is mingled with

feelings of gratitude for much valuable assistance rendered me in my earlier essays."

Biographies of literary or scientific men are often made wearisome by the details of private life with which they are filled. Mr. Walton has done wisely in simply reprinting the sketch of Mr. Gregory, written soon after his death by his friend Mr. Leslie Ellis. It is very brief, merely recounting the more prominent incidents of its subject's life. It has a peculiar interest to those who remember its writer's own history. We cannot help seeing in one who draws a veil over the last painful days of his friend's life the sympathy of a fellow-sufferer whom death is already claiming for himself.

The Memorial Writings of Mr. Boole are to appear shortly in the form of a second volume of his "Treatise on Differential Equations." They are being edited by I. Todhunter, F.R.S., of St. John's College, Cambridge. Their publication is looked for with great interest. So deeply had their author become interested in his work, and so far was it identified with him, that an account of his researches will be little less than a history of the progress of the subject.

We hear, too, with much pleasure, of "A Life of Professor Boole," from the pen of his sister. Immediately after his death short sketches of his career appeared in some of the leading journals, sufficient, however, only to make us desirous for more. At present our information is confined to a few, but those very suggestive, facts respecting him: That he was born at Lincoln in 1815; that after having taught himself first Latin, and then Greek, he kept a small school in his native city, for twelve or fourteen of the best years of his life, "without honour in his own country," until the world without discovered his worth; and that amidst all his duties he found time to produce those memoirs which have made his name famous throughout the world. In 1849 he became Professor of Mathematics at Cork, and from that time forth his name was constantly before the scientific world. After a short illness, he died on the 9th of December, 1864. His works are his most fitting monuments; his place knows him now no more, but his loss is one which will not soon be supplied.

Gutch's Literary and Scientific Register and Almanack for 1866. (W. Stevens; F. Arnold.)—To write an inventory of the Kosmos in some 300 poor pages is the aim of the editor, now repeated for the twenty-fifth time. There is no one who will not find in this pocket-book much that will be of almost daily use to him. Even on a vacation tour its possessor had better not part with it. The heights of columns and of obelisks, besides the lengths of cathedrals, will enable him to settle many a disputed point on the spot. He can ascertain from it the exact height of the mountain he has to ascend after an early breakfast, and the exact number of hours he will have to spend in travelling before he can dine at his club. If he wishes to send a telegram, it will inform him whether the sea before him can transmit it or not, and whether the vegetables served up with his *bifteck* are as foreign to the inhabitants as the dish. We knew an eminent scholar who always carried a dictionary with him, as on the whole the most inexhaustible book he could find. Now we have seen Gutch's Almanack, we shall recommend that instead. To master it would be better than reading the manuals of all the sciences, and besides it is always "up" to the last discoveries of the day. Nor is it above giving you the humblest information, or providing you with blank pages fit to contain the memoranda of the hour.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

THE eclipse of Oct 19th, at Charleston, S.C., was observed by R. T. Paine, Esq., of that city, whose place of observation on the 19th was a garden on Meeting Street, 1,100 feet exactly south of St. Michael's Church, the latitude of which church was very carefully determined to be $32^{\circ} 46' 33''$. The weather about noon of the 18th was warm and sultry, with a high wind at 1 P.M. from south, and thermometer 81° ; in the afternoon there was a shower, with lightning and a rainbow; in the evening the sky became clear,

with a strong wind from west, which carried down the thermometer 32° in the night to 49° at sunrise of the 19th; and it did not rise above 56° during the day, which was throughout perfectly clear, with a gentle wind from west. The appearance of the surface of the sun on the 19th was singularly uniform and free from all irregularities; and there were on it only two small spots, near each other and the S.W. edge, about 20° from the vertex, or a little below the point where the eclipse began. The second and third contacts (the formation and rupture of the ring) were, as usual, very beautiful, and quite instantaneous. At the formation there was a slight fracture in the rapidly-advancing cusp, and about five seconds before the third contact, the well known dark parallel lines were seen, shooting out from the moon to the nearest point in the edge of the sun. They, however, compared with those seen at Middlebury, Vt., May 26, 1854, were very slender, and of a lighter colour. In the eclipse of September, 1838, at Washington, they were not seen at all. The breaking up of the cusp into small bright points, called Bailey's Beads, has been seen by Mr. Paine only once—viz., in the ring eclipse of February 12, 1831, at the S.E. extremity of Cape Cod. As the moon on the 19th was at its greatest distance from the earth, and its apparent diameter consequently unusually small, much diminution of the light between the second and third contacts was not anticipated; but it was quite as great as was expected, and the gloom and chill in the air were considerable. The thermometer in the shade fell 3° ; domestic animals were, as usual, quiet while the ring lasted, but only five minutes after it was broken a mocking bird on a tree in the garden recommenced its varying song. The duration of the ring was eight and a quarter minutes (Sm. 15.2s.), or two seconds less than that computed from the elements of the sun and moon, as given in the *British Nautical Almanac*, but probably the longest in any eclipse in this country in this century. The next central eclipse in the United States will be that of August 7, 1869.

A NEW vehicle for popularizing certain scientific ideas has been devised, under the title of the Anthropological Lecturing Club. The objects of the club are, by means of lectures: first, to diffuse a knowledge of anthropology, or the science of man, amongst all classes of society; second, to form a medium of communication between the students of anthropological science and the general public; third, to draw attention throughout the civilized world to the cruelties practised on the various aboriginal races, with special reference to their mitigation by increased anthropological knowledge; fourth, to publish facts of practical value and utility bearing on anthropological questions important in a sanitary and social sense to colonists, emigrants, and others immediately brought into contact with savage races. This club is in no way connected with the Anthropological Society of London, and has been established for an entirely different purpose. Popular lectures on anthropology have already been delivered at the Crystal Palace and at other institutions in the country. The committee have made arrangements for the publication of the reports of their movements and lectures in a forthcoming periodical entitled the *Popular Journal of Anthropology*. We have been favoured with a prospectus of this new monthly, the first number of which is to appear on January 1, 1866. One of the articles will be on "The Wilful Extinction of the Aboriginal Races." The publishers are Messrs. Trübner and Co.

WE have already noticed what appears to be a very effective remedy for whooping cough—viz., the inhaling of the vapours given off from the purifiers of gas-works (READER vi., pp. 69, 124). It may be of interest to know that the discovery was made by an intelligent workman at one of the Paris gas-works, whose child was suffering from whooping cough. The child was in the habit of visiting his father at the works, and it was noticed that the cough was much less troublesome when the child was in the purifying house. This led to further experiments, and to the discovery of the remedy.

A FRENCH engineer, M. Rarchaert, has lately introduced a new kind of cartridge, made up of layers of powder of varying degrees of strength. The first stratum, the one which touches the projectile, is composed of slow-burning powder. This is followed by a layer of quicker and stronger powder, and so on. The bullet is started by the ignition of the first layer, the velocity with which it is impelled being increased by the explosion of the stronger and more rapid powders. Considerable economy

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is said to result from the use of these cartridges. The combustion is gradual, and the arm is thus protected from injurious strains caused by the use of large charges of quick-burning gunpowder. The principle of graduated charges is not, it may be mentioned, altogether new, Mr. Whitworth and Baron Ségnier having already proposed to use charges composed of gun-cotton and gunpowder, the latter being ignited first. It was expected that by this means gun-cotton might be rendered available for use in warfare.

A RECENT supplement to the *Calcutta Gazette* contains a very interesting report of the Government Commission appointed to examine the project of the Salt Water Lakes Reclamation and Irrigation Company—a gigantic “main drainage” scheme. Capt. Hamilton, who visited Calcutta in 1706, says: “Mr. Charnock could not have chosen a more unhealthy situation on all the line of river; for three miles to the eastward is a salt-water lake, which overflows in September and October, and prodigious numbers of fish resort there; but in November and December, when the floods are dissipated, those fishes are left to die, and with their putrefaction affect the air with thick, stinking vapours, which the north-east winds bring with them to Fort William, so that a great yearly mortality is caused by them.” These lakes occupy an area of about twenty-six square miles. The project of the company is to reclaim and bring this area under cultivation by first embanking and draining it, and then manuring and irrigating it with the sewage of Calcutta. The report is accompanied by a mass of very interesting evidence. On the whole, it is decidedly favourable to the scheme, which, if carried out, will have the effect of vastly improving the sanitary condition of the whole city, and more particularly that of the eastern part.

THE last number of *Poggendorff's Annalen* contains a continuation of Pape's investigations on the efflorescence of crystals. His object is to show that this action is not propagated, as might have been supposed, irregularly, but in spots of a certain determinate form, generally partaking more or less of the ellipsoid. The relative proportions of the diameters of these figures are, he states, intimately connected with the form of the crystal. He mentions the well-known fact of the difference in the heat-conducting powers of a crystal in different directions, which he considers to be somewhat akin to the phenomenon he describes. In some substances—for example, newly-formed crystals of Glauber's salt, large elliptical spots may be noticed within five or ten minutes after their removal from the mother liquor. In sulphate of zinc the same thing may be observed after the lapse of a day or so, the isolated spots having a regular and sharply-defined outline. The efflorescence takes place with greater rapidity in the direction of the shorter axis of the crystal, and slower in that of the longer axis. The form, then, of the efflorescence-figure of any particular face of the crystal depends on its position with regard to the axis. He suggests that this fact may be found useful in determining the system to which a crystal belongs when the ordinary method fails to give satisfactory results. The same law may probably hold good during the separation of other substances besides water, such as carbonic acid or ammonia from crystals containing these compounds.

SCIENTIFIC CORRESPONDENCE.

ASCENT OF THE BALLOON CLUB.

A TRIP with ten persons in the car of my balloon, “Research,” as novitiates of a newly-formed Balloon Club, is rather a new and exceptional feature in aerostatics. Public ascents generally terminate in September; but this on Saturday, November 11th, from the Crystal Palace grounds, was by private arrangement, and took place chiefly for the instruction of new members of the Balloon Club.

At one end of the car were three of the Masters of Harrow, Mr. E. E. Bowen, Mr. E. M. Young, and Mr. Arthur, Fellows of Trinity College, Cambridge; to my right were four gentlemen from Lloyd's—viz., Mr. C. C. Dumas, Mr. J. H. Welsh, Mr. J. G. Buchanan, and Mr. B. Fowler. In the hoop above were Mr. E. Atkinson and Mr. W. Stewart; the former gentleman had several well-constructed instruments for meteorological observations, but as this did not assume to be an ascent specially for the purposes of science, it may suffice to notice that we left the earth at 3.10 P.M., the temperature at starting being 52° of Fah., and that at 4,200 feet it

was exactly 30°, a diminution of temperature which does not differ materially from the results obtained in the larger number of previous ascents.

The course we travelled was influenced by a west-north-west wind, and was to the south of Bromley, near to Tunbridge, directly above Seven-oaks Station, and over Knole-park. We then had the South-Eastern Railway nearly under us, and raced the train for several miles, although the rate of travelling was slow for a balloon. The “Research” crossed the railway near Paddock-wood, but we soon began to find that evening was setting in apace, for the russet tints began to fade, and the bronzed foliage of the oak coppices lost their distinctness, so that it was prudent to alight. We did so in good order, near Biddenden, by Cranbrook, in Kent, having, with hardly a perceptible breeze, travelled over forty miles in about one hour and three-quarters.

HENRY COXWELL.

DR. MACVICAR'S MOLECULAR HYPOTHESIS—
“THE CHEMISTRY OF QUARTZ AND FELSPAR.”

MANY months ago I read Dr. Macvicar's original memoir on “The Law of the Volumes of Aeriforms Extended to Dense Bodies.”

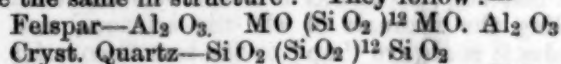
In another communication, dated October 21, Dr. Macvicar returns to the subject, saying: “At this very moment, for instance, the most advanced chemistry can assign no reason why the crust of the earth is composed of quartz, felspar, and mica, rather than of diamond, sapphire, and gold.” Propose a parallel question concerning the occurrence of particular animals or particular plants to the most advanced naturalist; you will have to wait for the answer.

Dr. Macvicar next asserts that “mineral or chemical geology, as soon as it leaves the region of the stratified rocks, and their organic remains, is no better than a bundle of paradoxes.” This is a rash statement for 1865. Have, then, the labours of Bischof, Bechi, Percy, and a dozen other distinguished and successful workers, been all in vain? Are all the phenomena of “geology, wonders, of which, according to current chemical hypotheses, it is impossible to give any rational account?” Have not the modes of occurrence, the changes, and the replacements of many most important minerals, been made out satisfactorily? In the limits of a letter it is impossible to do more than state the general fact; any one with sufficient knowledge and opportunities can prove it to be true by the study of particular instances.

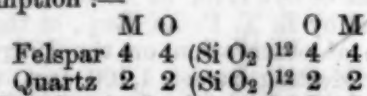
The Doctor asserts that the symbolic formulæ of minerals “give no insight into their genesis, or the places they take or hold in nature.” No one imagined that they had any function of this sort to discharge. But as Dr. Macvicar has raised objections to modern formulæ, and has said some bitter things about them, we will examine one or two of his own improved formulæ.

Felspar and quartz, according to Dr. Macvicar, are the chief constituents of the earth's crust (carbonate of calcium is nowhere). Dr. Macvicar's formulæ for felspar represents a symmetrical molecule, but it is only superficially symmetrical, representing extension in one plane only. Should not the three dimensions of a solid be recognized in constructing a formulæ which is to be assumed as a basis for the calculation of density? Having gone thus far, Dr. Macvicar begins a fresh series of assumptions. We will number them, and examine them in order.

(1.) The molecule of crystallized quartz possesses the same structure as that of felspar. Allow assumption 1. What formulæ for quartz and felspar does Dr. Macvicar consider thus to be the same in structure? They follow:—



In other words, Dr. Macvicar affirms SiO_2 to be equivalent to $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot \text{MO}$. We fancy this will prove a little too much for Drs. Odling and Hofmann. By assigning the known quantitative, or numerical values in relation to hydrogen, of Al, M, Si, &c., outside the central dodecatom of SiO_2 , we can show the absurdity of this assumption:—



Or more briefly, $4+4+4+4=2+2+2+2!$

(2.) The quartz of fusion is supposed to consist of simple dodecatoms $(\text{SiO}_2)^{12}$. Grant this second assumption along with the first. We may now arrive, according to Dr. Macvicar, at the specific gravity of the two kinds of quartz, by simply dividing the atomic weight of their complex

molecules by the atomic weight of 36 atoms of water. But stop. Before we can do this, we must make a third assumption (just a little one).

(3.) We are told to assume, thirdly, “that in one aqueous volume there are two volumes of so small a molecule as that of quartz.” Then we arrive at the density of 2.2 for fused quartz, and 2.56* for crystallized quartz. But, by a playful use of large numbers and three judicious assumptions, what results might we not produce?

(4.) A fourth assumption is made in the case of felspar. This is affirmed, on what grounds it is not stated, to be “a compound dodecatom, occupying eight aqueous unit volumes;” so the divisor now has to be, not 36 times the atomic weight of water, but 8×36 times, or 2592. But the divisor in the case of crystallized quartz was only 324; why then this difference between the calculations in the case of these two bodies, which Dr. Macvicar has been strenuously asserting to be constructed on the same model?

Many other matters for criticism occur in the communication under discussion; I have endeavoured to speak of the most important. By a reference to the original memoir, far wilder assumptions than any which I have here adduced may be discovered. Not unfrequently, when the specific gravity of a body won't come out right, Dr. Macvicar frames two formulæ, and takes the mean result of their working as the true answer! He tampers with the best ascertained atomic weights, and even ventures to doubt whether an element if derived from different minerals is really the same element after all. C.

ON THE GLACIAL SUBMERGENCE.

Glasgow, November 27, 1865.

ASSUMING the submergence of the land during the glacial epoch to be due to the cause assigned in a former letter, it follows that if we knew exactly the extent of the submergence at any particular place, we should have data for arriving approximately at the probable thickness of the ice covering the land during the submergence. Or if we knew the extent of the elevation of the land during the warm periods, we could determine the thickness of the ice on the southern hemisphere.

At present we do not know the extent to which the land was elevated, nor the extent of the submergence. Marine shells have been found in North Wales 1,360 feet above the sea-level; therefore a submergence of the land to this extent may be reasonably inferred. And Professor Ramsay has shown that North Wales was probably submerged to a much greater extent. But, taking in the meantime 1,360 feet as the extent of the general submergence in latitude 53°, which is about that of North Wales, we should have 1,703 feet as the extent of the submergence at the north pole. The calculations are made on the supposition that the earth is a perfect sphere, and the above result is, therefore, not absolutely correct. As the average thickness of the ice-sheet would be about fourteen times greater than the extent of the submergence, the ice at the pole must have been about four and a-half miles thick. Compared with its superficial extent and the size of the globe, four and a-half miles is really but a very small affair. An ice-sheet two miles in thickness would be represented on a two-foot globe by a sheet of ordinary writing paper $\frac{1}{12}$ th of an inch in thickness. And the sheet, four and a-half miles thick, covering the Arctic regions, would be to the size of the earth as a piece of ordinary cardboard $\frac{1}{12}$ th of an inch thick pasted on the end of a globe 14½ feet in diameter. Again, if this ice-sheet, or more properly ice-cap, extended down to the latitude of England, it would be upwards of 5,000 miles in diameter. A sheet of such enormous magnitude might reasonably be expected to be at least four and a-half miles thick at the centre.

It is evident that the ice-cap must have increased in thickness at the centre, year by year, till its pressure became sufficient to move the ice outwards in all directions from the pole as fast as it was formed on the surface. When this point was reached there would be no further increase in the thickness of the ice. It is clear that a pressure of four-and-a-half miles of ice, in the case under consideration, is by no means sufficient to fulfil that condition. The real question, therefore, is, what was the cause which, during the glacial epoch, limited the thickness of the polar ice-cap? The thickness of the ice-sheet at the pole was determined, not

* Pure quartz has the density 2.65.

by the pressure of the ice, but by its rate of increase, and the length of time during which this increase was allowed to take place. During the glacial epoch the sheet would grow gradually thicker year by year while the cold continued, so that the thickness of the sheet depended upon the length of the period. Had each of the cold periods extended over an immense lapse of time, say some hundred thousand years, the ice would have accumulated till its thickness became limited by pressure. But during the glacial epoch, owing to the shortness of the cold periods, the ice was never allowed to accumulate to that extent. At the pole the ice, in consequence of the enormous resistance offered, could have had but very little motion outwards.

As the surface of the ice-cap would form an immense table-land, the greater part of which would be elevated above the snow-line, the quantity of snow melted, even during the heat of summer, would be but small, and nearly all would go to increase the thickness of the sheet. A sheet 23,842 feet thick, formed during a cold period of 10,000 years, would give 2.4 feet per annum as the rate of increase at the north pole. But 2.4 feet is probably too high an estimate of the rate of increase. The motion of the major axis of the earth's orbit is very irregular, and subject to great variations, as may be seen from an inspection of M. Leverrier's table of the longitude of the perihelion for a period of 200,000 years (*Connaissance des Temps* for 1843. Additions). But about 200,000 years ago the major axis had nearly the same rate of motion as at present (See *Phil. Mag.* for June, 1865, Supp.). Consequently, if we assume that the rate of precession differed also but little from what it is at present, then the duration of the cold periods of the glacial epoch must have been between 10,000 and 11,000 years. But an ice-sheet of four-and-a-half miles in thickness placed on the northern hemisphere would seriously affect the precession of the equinoxes. The effect would be to diminish the rate of precession, and consequently lengthen the duration of the periods. Thus a much less quantity than 2.4 feet annually would suffice to produce a sheet of the magnitude required. But we have every reason to believe that the quantity of snow falling, even at the pole, during the glacial epoch would probably be more than sufficient to produce an addition of 2.4 feet per annum to the thickness of the ice.

The lengthening of the cold periods, in consequence of the influence of the ice on the precession of the equinoxes, would tend greatly to aggravate the rigours of the glacial epoch, by allowing the ice to accumulate to a much greater extent than it would otherwise have done, had the motion of precession been then as rapid as it is at present.

In my last letter I stated that the northern winter solstice was in the perihelion 210,000 years ago, and in the aphelion 199,200 years ago. The calculations were made upon the supposition that the rate of precession was the same during the glacial epoch as at present—a supposition which, however, is evidently not correct. In our present ignorance of the rate of precession during the glacial epoch, it is impossible to assign within a few thousand years the exact time when the solstice point would be in the perihelion or the aphelion. All that we can at present say is, that the period of maximum cold must have been somewhere about 200,000 or 210,000 years ago.

The question is asked by Mr. Fisher, is it true that more heat is, on the whole, parted with by that pole which has the longer night? I answer thus: The extent of the cooling effect depends upon two circumstances—viz., the rate of cooling, and the duration of the period of cooling. The southern hemisphere is further from the sun during its winter than the northern, and therefore cools more rapidly. It is, however, nearer to the sun during its summer than the northern, and on this account cools more slowly. The heat thus saved during summer would exactly compensate for that lost during winter, were the two periods of equal length; but as the southern winter is longer than the southern summer by more than seven and a-half days, there is, on the whole, a greater amount of heat lost during winter than is saved during summer. Consequently, the southern hemisphere is cooled to a greater extent than the northern.

We are, of course, reasoning upon the supposition that the physical conditions of the two hemispheres are the same, and considering the effect due to cosmical causes alone. But the conditions of the two hemispheres as regards the distribution of sea and land are widely different; and we find that the preponderance of sea in the

southern hemisphere over the northern more than neutralizes the effects of eccentricity. For it is well known that the southern hemisphere is neither heated in summer nor cooled in winter to a greater extent than the northern.

Adhemar's theory is that the continuance of the sun about seven and a-half days longer on the north of the equator than on the south causes a melting of the snow and ice on the northern hemisphere, and an enormous accumulation on the southern. But facts show that the difference in the lengths of the two periods produces at present but little effect after neutralizing the effects resulting from the present distribution of sea and land.

We have no reason whatever to believe that there is more ice at present on the southern hemisphere than on the northern, or that the ice is thicker at the south pole than at the north. The great Humboldt glacier of Greenland we know is as thick as the great glacier of Victoria Land. So long as the eccentricity remains at its present low value—and that will be for a period of more than 100,000 years to come—there cannot be a great difference in the quantity of ice at either pole. Had Adhemar taken into consideration the change in the eccentricity of the earth's orbit, and concluded that a great accumulation of ice takes place only at the time when the eccentricity is near its superior limit, his theory would have been more correct. For at that period the difference in the length of time that the sun remains on the two hemispheres amounts to more than a month, and consequently there must be a vast increase in the heating effect on the one hemisphere, and the cooling effect on the other, resulting from that difference. But, even then, it is extremely doubtful whether this would account for the glacial epoch.

It is more than probable that the great accumulation of ice during the glacial epoch resulted (*Phil. Mag.*, August, 1864) from a cause of a totally different character. When the eccentricity of the earth's orbit is near its superior limit, and the winter solstice is in the aphelion, the winter temperature becomes lowered to such an extent as to freeze the ocean down to low latitudes. All the moisture which now falls in temperate regions during winter in the form of rain would then fall as snow. At the commencement of the short summer the ground would be found covered with the winter's accumulation of ice and snow. The presence of so much snow and ice would lower the summer temperature, so that at the end of that season the ground would not be completely cleared. As the ice continued to accumulate on the face of the country year by year, its influence in lowering the temperature of the summer would be still more and more felt. The melting power of the summer sun would consequently diminish as the ice accumulated, till ultimately we should have a brief and but moderately warm summer following a long and dreary winter, which even in the latitude of England would probably be nearly as cold as that of Greenland at the present day.

The great length of the winter half-year over the summer half, when the eccentricity is near its maximum, would affect the climate in two different ways: (1) By allowing the ground to cool by radiation to a greater extent than it would otherwise do were the seasons of equal length; and (2) by lengthening the ice-accumulating period, and shortening the ice-melting period. The influence of the first cause upon the glaciation of the country would probably be felt to a considerable extent. But it is to the second that we must attribute the principal effect.

We have proved that when the northern hemisphere is passing through a glacial period the N.E. trade winds would be greatly increased, while the S.E. trades would be correspondingly diminished. The effect of the great preponderance of the N.E. trades over the S.E. would be to impel the great equatorial current of the Atlantic to the south instead of to the north. The stoppage of the Gulf Stream would tend to increase the glaciation to an enormous extent. The general tendency of the preponderating influence of the N.E. trades would be to diminish all the warm oceanic currents flowing to the north, and strengthen all those flowing to the south, and thus lower the temperature of the northern hemisphere, and increase the temperature of the southern. But this is not all. A strong under-current of air from the north implies an equally strong upper current to the north. Now, if the effect of the under current would be to impel the warm water at the equator to the south, the effect of the upper current would be to carry the aqueous vapour formed at

the equator to the north. The upper current on reaching the ice-sheet, elevated in many places to the snow-line, would deposit its moisture in the form of snow. So that it is probable that, notwithstanding the great cold of the glacial epoch, the quantity of snow falling in northern regions would far exceed that falling at present. This would be particularly the case during summer, when the earth would be in the perihelion, and the heat at the equator excessive. The general effect of the aerial currents would, therefore, be to prevent the formation of ice on the southern hemisphere, and to increase the amount forming on the northern. When the winter solstice moved round to the perihelion, the condition of things on the two hemispheres would, of course, be reversed.

It has been shown by M. Escher, and repeated by Sir Charles Lyell, that the submergence of the Sahara would increase the glaciation of the Alps and the whole of the south of Europe to a great extent. Now a submergence to the extent of 1,360 feet in North Wales would give a submergence of the Sahara at the Tropic of Cancer to the extent of 678 feet. But as the ice-sheet could not possibly extend to so low a latitude as the Sahara, that place during the glacial epoch must have been under water. In fact, the greater part of the north of Africa must have been under water during the cold periods of the glacial epoch. The presence of so much water to the south of the great ice-sheet would powerfully aid the glaciation.

JAMES CROLL.

(To be continued.)

PROCEEDINGS OF FOREIGN ACADEMIES.

PARIS.

ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.—November 6.—M. Velpeau read a paper of some length on the subject of the cure of cholera. In this he examines several questions, especially those relating to the contagiousness or non-contagiousness of cholera. He believes the disease is contagious, and states "that all observations made upon the appearance of cholera in those places where it is not epidemic—for example, in Western Europe—seem to me to prove, almost to a certainty, that cholera is contagious."—M. Ch. Sainte-Claire Deville presented a letter upon the "Volcanic Emanations of the Champs Phlégréens," in which M. Fouqué's researches are very highly lauded, and the important distinctions between the several volcanic gases pointed out.—M. Guyon read a memoir detailing his experiences of the Polish cholera of 1831-2. This is a paper of importance, for it describes the results of several *post-mortem* examinations, and points out some very curious facts relative to the presence of pure chyme in the stomachs of choleraic patients.—M. Cloquet had also an essay on "Cholera," in which the following conclusions were stated: "(1.) That the choleric poison, whatever it may be, exerts its primary action on the nervous system. (2.) That all the functional disorders observed in *cholera morbus* depend upon modifications and disturbances of the nervous system, which acts upon all the parts under its control. (3.) That there is every reason to hope that some therapeutic agent will be discovered capable of antagonizing the action of the choleric poison in the nervous system, and hence of curing the disease."—M. Aug. Duméril described the results of his observations upon the development of the Axolotl (*Siredon Mexicanus*). At a former meeting (April last) he described the first changes which the ova undergo. He has since carefully watched the several metamorphoses exhibited by the specimens in the Ménagerie of the Museum of Natural History. Having described the external changes of form which these interesting reptiles underwent, M. Duméril asserted that a corresponding series of internal modifications accompany the outer ones. "The scarcity of specimens prevented my following through their progressive course the changes presented by the Hyobranchial apparatus, but the anatomical examination of their structure in one of the specimens showed that the three internal branchial arches had disappeared; there remained only the most external one, which, deprived of its dentated membrane, and united by an articulation with the cornu of the thyroid cartilage, constituted a sort of posterior joint. Behind this piece was seen on each side the anterior branch of the hyoid bone. The median or basi-hyal piece was well developed, and, as in the other parts of the hyoid, ossification had commenced. The bodies of the vertebrae were less concave on the posterior surfaces, but especially so upon the an-

terior faces."—M. Marey communicated a most interesting essay on a novel subject, "The Sphygmograph." This latter is an apparatus which is placed over the heart, and which traces a series of curves upon paper, in such a manner as to indicate the several phenomena of contraction, dilation, &c. In the published report, the paper is accompanied by a number of diagrams, in which appear curves—like those used by meteorologists—showing the comparative action of the hearts of man, the horse, the dog, the frog, fishes, and the crab.—M. Baudelot presented a memoir on the "Nervous System of Fishes."—M. Baudrimont read a paper on "Cholera." He attributes this disease to fermentation of the blood, and shows that this is brought about by a substance analogous to the yeast of beer. This substance presents itself in the form of rounded particles of about the hundredth of a millimetre in diameter. The presence of diastase which M. Andral has demonstrated in the choleraic discharges, the writer also regarded as a proof of his theory.—Herr Mayer, of Bonn, sent in an essay on the "Classification of Fishes based upon Cerebral Characters."—M. Trécul read a continuation of his memoir on the "Laticiferous Vessels of Plants." In this he merely described those portions of the vascular system in the *Chicoraceæ*.—MM. Friedil and Crafts presented, through M. Dumas, a paper on a "New Alcohol," in which a part of the carbon is replaced by silicium.—M. Dumas also read a note from Herr Kopp, upon the "Theory of the Preparation of Soda," by the Le Blanc process.—M. Lacaze-Duthiers, the celebrated coral-investigator, presented a communication upon the "Zoological Relations of the Brachiopoda," which was of much interest. The author pointed out that, contrary to the beautiful inquiries of Professor Huxley and Mr. Hancock, the *Terebratula* is not closely allied to the *Mollusca*, but has closer affinities with the *Bivalves*. The horse-shoe process is almost the only structure resembling that of *Mollusca*. He corroborates Professor Huxley's statement that the intestine of *Terebratula* is coecal, and thus arrives at a very different conclusion from that put forward by Professor Owen.

REPORTS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

GEOGRAPHICAL.—Nov. 27.—Sir R. I. Murchison, President, in the chair.

The first paper was "An Overland Expedition from Rockhampton, Queensland, to Cape York, under the Command of Messrs. F. and A. Jardine," by Mr. Richardson. This was an account of a journey undertaken for the purpose of discovering a route whereby live stock could be taken by land from the interior Queensland pastures to supply the new settlement of Somerset. The party left Rockhampton on the 14th of May, 1864, and reached Somerset on the 11th of March, 1865. In the months of October and November they traversed the country watered by the rivers Lynd and Mitchell, of which they report very unfavourably. Further to the north most of their horses died, apparently from eating a poisonous herb. On leaving the west coast of the gulf in January (lat. 14° S.), and striking eastward, good pastoral country was discovered. On the 24th of January they discovered a new river flowing westward into the gulf, which they named the Jardine.

A second paper was "On the Establishment of a New Settlement, Cardwell, in Rockingham Bay, and the Discovery of a Route over the Coast Range to the Valley of Lagoons," by Mr. G. F. Dalrymple. The new settlement, Cardwell, promoted by Sir G. Bowen, Governor of Queensland, was founded in the month of January, 1864, by Mr. Dalrymple and his party, on the site previously marked out by Captain G. H. Richards, R.N., in Rockingham Bay. The shores and islands of the bay—in the tropical parts of Queensland—are described as mountainous. The mountains rise to the height of 3,500 to 4,000 feet, and their slopes and the plains at their feet are clothed with a dense and luxuriant tropical vegetation. The pastoral districts of this part of Queensland lie on the tableland and in the elevated valleys beyond these precipitous ranges; it was, therefore, a vital object with the new settlers to discover a route capable of being made into a dray-road between the uplands and the port. An attempt had been made the previous year by Mr. Dalrymple and Mr. A. J. Scott to reach the coast from the interior, but it had failed, owing to the density of the forest and the steepness of the ravines in the mountains. Mr. Dalrymple, after establish-

ing the colonists near Point Hecate, proceeded with a party of troopers and natives to make another attempt from the port, directing his course towards a gap in the wall-like range. He found that here the ridge was surmountable, and on the opposite side discovered a river, which he named the Herbert, flowing into the plains in a magnificent cascade. Reaching the cattle stations in the Valley of Lagoons, he returned to the settlement, and invited all the men to assist in making a road fit for wheeled vehicles. This was eventually accomplished. The distance by the road is ninety-six miles.

A third paper was "A Boat Voyage from Adam Bay, North Australia, to Champion Bay, Western Australia," by Mr. J. P. Stow. Mr. Stow was one of a party of colonists who left Adelaide in 1864, to establish a settlement at the mouth of the Adelaide, in Adam Bay, N.A. The enterprise resulted in complete failure. Mr. Stow and six others put to sea in a small boat 23½ feet long, and endeavoured to reach the settlements of Western Australia, by coasting round the northern and western shores of the continent. Fine weather accompanied them; but the shores were barren and dreary, as also the numerous archipelagos and islands. They went ashore in many places previously unvisited by Europeans. On arriving at Camden harbour they found the settlers making ready to abandon the place; several of them had died of sunstroke; the sheep were reduced to miserable objects, owing to the bad pasture, and the horses had to be fed on corn and bran. They continued their voyage in the boat to the next settlement, Champion Bay, 1,000 miles distant.

Sir Charles Nicholson made a few remarks on the papers, and on the progress of colonization in the northern parts of Australia. He said that Mr. Dalrymple had rendered a great service to the colony of Queensland in opening out a road across the coast-ranges of Rockingham Bay, but thought that he had rather overrated the advantages to English colonists of the low lands along the coast of tropical Eastern Australia. The numerous lagoons and long stretches of mangrove swamp which occupy so great a part of the area he thought detracted greatly from the value of these districts.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.—Nov. 14.—John Gould, Esq., F.R.S., V.-P., in the chair. Mr. S. Stevens exhibited the egg of an extinct species of *Dinornis*, supposed to be that of *Dinornis ingens*, Owen, which had been placed in his hands for sale.—Mr. Blyth exhibited some remarkable horns of the Wapiti Stag (*Cervus canadensis*), and made some remarks on the different varieties of this species of deer.—Mr. P. L. Sclater exhibited a collection of bird-skins made in the vicinity of Hakodadi, Japan, by Mr. Henry Whitely, and pointed out several species of great interest, which had not been previously known to occur in that country.—A communication was read from Mr. E. L. Layard, of Cape Town, F.Z.G., on the habits, nest, and eggs of *Saxicola spectabilis*, a new species from the Cape Colony, which had been lately described by Dr. G. Hartlaub in the society's proceedings.—Mr. A. Newton exhibited and made remarks on a series of bones of an extinct species of *Didus*, transmitted by Mr. Edward Newton to this country, having been obtained by that gentleman's correspondents from caverns in the island of Rodriguez.—Mr. P. L. Sclater exhibited and pointed out the characters of a new species of parrot, of the genus *Nasiterna*, proposed to be called *Nasiterna pusio*. Two specimens of this diminutive bird had been forwarded to this country by Mr. Krefft, of the Australian Museum, Sydney, having been received from one of the Salomon Islands.—A paper was read by Mr. J. H. Gurney on a new and very singular raptorial bird discovered by Mr. C. J. Anderson in Damara Land. For this peculiar type, which, although *Buteonine* in its general aspect, presented some points of resemblance to the owls, Mr. Gurney proposed the name *Stringonyx Anderssoni*.—A communication was read from Dr. G. Hartlaub, For. Memb., on a new species of Francolin discovered in Central Africa during Captain Speke's expedition, and proposed to be called *Francolinus Grantii*.—Dr. J. Murie exhibited and made some remarks on a specimen of a leech (*Trocheta subviridis*) found in the viscera of a Moluccan deer.—A paper was read by Dr. J. E. Gray, entitled "Notice of *Rhodophyton*, a New Form of *Aleyonida* Found on the Coast of Cornwall."—Dr. J. E. Gray also communicated descriptions of two new forms of lizards from Damara Land, proposed to be called *Cordylus trivirgatus* and *Ptenopus maculatus*, and gave a short

account of part of a skeleton of a Finner whale sent by Mr. Swinhoe from the coast of Formosa.—Mr. Gould exhibited and pointed out the characters of five supposed new species of Asiatic birds belonging to the genera *Enicurus*, *Nectarinia*, and *Otocorpsa*.—Mr. G. French Angas communicated the second portion of a *resumé* of the marine molluscan fauna of the province of South Australia.—Mr. A. G. Butler read a monograph of the lepidopterous insects of the genus *Charaxes*, of which sixty-eight known species were recognized. Mr. Butler also described six butterflies new to science, belonging to the genera *Heterochroa* and *Romalesoma*.—Dr. Gray communicated a note by Miss Stavely "On the Teeth on the Maxillæ of Spiders," which appeared to have hitherto escaped the notice of naturalists.—A communication was read from Mr. Gerard Krefft, of the Australian Museum, Sydney, Corr. Memb., on a supposed new species of sperm whale, of the genus *Euphysetes*, proposed to be called *E. Macleayi*. The specimen upon which Mr. Krefft's description was founded had been stranded at Manly Beach, near Sydney, in August last.—A communication was read from Professor J. V. Barboza du Bocage, For. Memb., containing further particulars of the occurrence of *Hyalonema lusitanicum* on the coast of Portugal.—A communication was read from Dr. Burmeister, For. Memb., describing the bladebone of a species of Finner whale (*Balenoptera*) found near the river Salado, Buenos Ayres.

LINNEAN.—Nov. 2.—Mr. G. Benham, F.R.S., President, in the chair.

Arthur, Viscount Walden, Dr. Bhan Dagee, and Mr. T. B. Langley, were elected fellows.

Dr. Prior exhibited specimens of *Benthamia fragifera*, with ripe fruit, grown at Felton House, Kingston, near Taunton.

The following papers were read—viz:—

1. "On Hillebrandia, a New Genus of *Begoniaceæ*," by Professor Oliver, F.R.S.
2. "On the Law of Leaflet Genesis," by Mr. H. Coultas.
3. "Enumeration of Indian *Lemnaceæ*," by Mr. S. Kurz, Curator of the Herbarium of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Calcutta.
4. "Lichenes Novæ Zelandiæ quos legit, anno 1861, Dr. L. Lindsay," by Dr. W. Nylander.
5. "List of *Fungi* Collected in Otago, New Zealand, by Dr. W. L. Lindsay."
6. Letter from Mr. S. Ward to Sir W. J. Hooker, on the Coco de Mer (*Lodoicea Seychellarum*), in the island of Praslin.

NOVEMBER 16.—The President in the chair.

Sir David Barclay, Bart., the Rev. W. A. Leighton, Captain Henry Pulleine, George Sigerson, M.D., and Mr. Marmaduke Wilkin, were elected Fellows.

The following papers were read—viz:—

1. "Notes on *Medicago*, *Crocus*, &c., as Affording Facilities for the Intercrossing of Distinct Flowers," by the Rev. George Henslow.
2. "Contributions to a Monograph of the *Aphroditaceæ*, Part 2," by Dr. Baird.
3. "On the Spicula of the Regular *Echinoidea*," by Mr. C. Stewart, communicated by Professor Huxley.
4. "Account of a Newly-discovered British Fish, of the Family *Gadidae*, and of the Genus *Couchia*," by Mr. Couch.
5. "Observations on British *Salpæ*," by Dr. W. C. McIntosh, M.D.

DECEMBER 7.—The following papers were read:—

1. "On some Climbing Plants near Desterro, in South Brazil," by Mr. F. Müller.
2. "On Double Orchids," by Dr. Masters.
3. "On the Genus *Moringa*," by Mr. Dalzell.
4. "On *Arthonia melasperuella*," by Dr. Lindsay.

STATISTICAL.—Nov. 21.—Col. Sykes, M.P., F.R.S., in the chair.

Mr. F. I. Scudamore and Sir John Lubbock, Bart., F.R.S., were elected fellows.

Dr. Camps reported on the proceedings of Section F at Birmingham.

Dr. W. A. Guy then read a paper "On the Original and Acquired Meaning of the Term Statistics, and on the Functions of a Statistical Society; also on the Question whether there is a Science of Statistics, and if so, what are its Nature and Objects, and what its Relation to Political Economy and Social Science." He remarked upon the original and acquired meaning of the term "statistics," which appears to have been first used by Gottfried Achenwal, a Gottingen professor, in a work entitled "Statsverfassung der heutigen vornehmsten Europäischen Reiche und Völker," in 1749, where he defined the term *statistik* as that branch of learning (*disciplina*) which occupied itself with the extent, limits,

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subdivisions, and natural relations of states, their advantages, their history, and their origin; as synonymous with *Statskunde* and *Statsbeschreibung* (the science and the description of states). The proper functions of a statistical society might be summarized thus: "1. To collect and preserve facts illustrating the past and present condition and probable future prospects of states and their territorial divisions, and of the several classes of their inhabitants. This is best done by means of a library, well arranged and duly catalogued, containing both books and manuscripts. 2. To add to existing facts by the special inquiries of committees, or of persons appointed for the purpose. 3. To promote the discussion of unsettled questions and the correction of erroneous views in political and social economy, by arranging for the reading of papers at periodical meetings to be held for the purpose, such papers only to be deemed to be within the province of the society as make use of facts and numerical statements in support of the views therein expressed. 4. To encourage to the utmost all efforts tending towards the establishment of sound principles for the guidance of those who engage in the work of collecting, arranging, and tabulating facts, and in applying the numerical method to the discovery of truth. 5. To discourage the improper use of the word statistics as a mere synonym for collections of facts, irrespective of the purpose to which they are applied; and to uphold the dignity of the society as applying facts of a peculiar order to purposes of the highest utility. 6. To discourage and repress all encroachments on the arena of politics, as objects of party strife." He inferred that there was a science of statistics—a science to which states and nations need not be ashamed to acknowledge their obligations.—The Chairman said long before their time there were statistics of nations in the Royal Asiatic Society; there were statistics of China before the Christian era—enumerations precisely similar to those he had given in his report to the British Association. They had them also in Spain. There was the *Collección Estadística* of 1710. They had also, lying upon the table, MS. statistics for every part of France, which were, it was supposed, brought over by some of the Protestants who had been expelled the country, and who had been employed in the statistical department of France, in the year 1685. Therefore, statistics were not new to them, and they could not misuse the term with such examples before them.—Mr. F. Purdy said this was an extremely suitable subject for discussion, as they had arrived at that stage in which they ought to see if they could not come to some settled opinion as to the relation of statistics to the whole domain of human knowledge. He had for years past honestly tried to find out that statistics was a science in the ordinary sense of the term, and though he did not think it was, he was willing to admit it was scientific. Two men, whose names all here would treat with respect, Lord Stanley and Mr. Newmarch, had very recently contended that it was not a science, and their opinions were entitled to great weight. He pointed out that, though Mr. Porter had been quoted to show that he was opposed to the rigid conception which the founders of this society had of statistical inquiry, the illustration was unfortunate, inasmuch as, twelve years afterwards, he took an entirely different view of the matter. In conclusion, he said it appeared to him that statistics was a word of dual significance. First, it signified the material of a study, as when they spoke of "commercial statistics," "agricultural statistics," &c. Secondly, it signified a scientific method of studying those facts capable of numerical representation that immediately related to the welfare of man as a social and progressive being.—Mr. W. Newmarch, F.R.S., said he was not going to detain the society by continuing the logomachy as to whether statistics was a science or not. His opinion was that whilst statistics in themselves could not be called a science, there was a statistical method quite entitled to all the value which Dr. Guy had claimed for it. The paper which had been read, and which nobody had a stronger title to read than Dr. Guy, was useful in many ways. It recalled what they might now, at the end of thirty-one years—very well afford to sit in lenient judgment upon—the views entertained by the eminent persons who founded this society. It was clear that in 1834 there was an undue jealousy of opinions, an undue value attached to a miscellaneous assemblage of facts. In his own case, in the first paper he submitted to the council, he was solemnly warned by the gentlemen composing it, that he must be very careful

how he expressed opinions, but he might put as many facts and tables as he could into his paper. He thought that was an error, and one which the society had wisely outgrown; one evidence of that was in an alteration which took place under his own direction in the symbol which appeared on the title-page of their journal, which used to be a sheaf, with the motto, *Alis extensum*. He was not able to agree with some of the opinions in Dr. Guy's paper. He thought the function of statistics much more restricted. Political economy was no mere branch of statistics. In the case of political economy there were certain generalizations which rendered it a science independent of statistical inquiry, such as general doctrines of international exchange, inconvertible currency, free trade, free labour, and a great many other subjects which were perfectly true on grounds of their own without regard to statistical verification. As to whether statistics was a science or not was, after all, a mere verbal question.—Mr. Hammick could not allow Mr. Newmarch's statement—that the question as to whether statistics was a science or not was merely a verbal matter—to pass without a word of comment. So long as he (Mr. Hammick) had been a member of this society, he believed he had belonged to one of the scientific societies of London. They had in their statistical methods those controlling laws and fixed principles which constituted a science quite as much as the science of metaphysics, administration, and other sciences which passed without question. Therefore he held that Dr. Guy was perfectly right.—Professor Babbage proceeded to state the early history of the society. Professor Quetelet, whom he first met at a dinner at Laplace's, and whom Laplace mentioned to him as a promising young man, was officially sent by his own Government to the meeting of the British Association at Cambridge with a budget of statistics. There was no place for him; no section in which they could put him; and his mission threatened to be entirely useless. Dr. Richard Jones, who was then professor of political economy at Trinity, mentioned this fact to him (Mr. Babbage), and he promised to meet them. He crossed the quadrangle and got to the door of Trinity College, when it occurred to him that that was a capital opportunity of advancing science and the interests of the British Association. He went back and asked Dr. Jones to request So-and-so to meet to discuss the question, and to resolve themselves into a separate section of the association, when it would be said they had done very wrong, and he would get up in the senate-house and acknowledge it was wrong, but that it was his suggestion. (Laughter.) They did as they had agreed, and he got absolution, with a great deal of advice, publicly and privately, to be excessively cautious in what they did in future. (Laughter.) They soon found that many people were highly interested in the section, and after a few meetings, they found it would be impossible to go on without establishing a society in London, and a meeting was called and the present society founded. With regard to statistics being a science, it appeared to him that the collection of facts was a science of itself.—Dr. Farr had enjoyed the advantage of reading Dr. Guy's paper, and it struck him as being one of the most interesting and luminous papers ever presented to this society. He should be exceedingly proud if he had ever written such a paper. He agreed with nearly everything Dr. Guy had said, and could not help thinking Colonel Sykes would eventually agree with him.—Mr. W. B. Hodge reminded the meeting that there had always been great difference of opinion as to the extent to which opinions should be discussed in this society, and added, with reference to the motto, that he remembered being at the council when it was discussed, and considered advisable that it should be withdrawn.—Dr. Guy briefly replied by quoting a passage from the original prospectus of the Society: "The Statistical Society of London was established for the purpose of procuring, arranging, and publishing facts calculated to illustrate the conditions and prospects of society, the first and most essential rule of its conduct being to exclude carefully all opinions from its transactions and publications—to confine its attention rigorously to facts."

GEOLOGICAL.—Nov. 22.—Mr. W. J. Hamilton, President, in the chair. Mr. Robert Lightbody, Ludlow, Salop, was elected a fellow.

The following communications were read:—

1. "On Impressions of Selenite in the Woolwich Beds and London Clay," by Dr. P. Martin Duncan.

Spaces formerly occupied by crystals of Selenite

having been described by the author as occurring in Woolwich Beds near Mottingham, Kent, and in the unfossiliferous London Clay of Tendring Hundred, he endeavoured to account for the phenomena to which he had drawn attention. He came to the conclusion that the mineral had resulted from the action of sulphuric acid, contained in percolating water, on pre-existing carbonate of lime, the sulphuric acid having been formed by the oxidation of sulphuretted hydrogen by the oxygen evolved from the decomposing vegetable remains occurring in the plant-beds intercalated in the strata containing Selenite-spaces. The hydrocarbons resulting from the same decomposition would in solution be sufficient to produce the decomposition of the Selenite. In conclusion, Dr. Duncan urged that if his explanations were accepted, the occurrence of Selenite in a deposit must be held to prove the former existence of organisms in it.

2. "On the Relation of the Chillesford Beds to the Norwich Crag." By the Rev. O. Fisher.

The geological position of the Chillesford Clay has never been definitely settled. The author described the Chillesford Beds as they occur at Chillesford, and thence traced them northward to Aldborough. At Thorp, north of Aldborough, the Norwich Crag is exposed, and the main object of the paper was to show that this bed probably overlies the Chillesford Clay. In order to prove that this crag is not identical with the Mya-bed below the clay, Mr. Fisher cited its greater thickness, its difference in lithological character, and the dissimilarity of their fossils; he also remarked that it rested upon a loamy clay, and contained a strong spring at its base, whereas the Mya-bed was always observed to rest on porous beds; he therefore inferred that this loamy clay was the Chillesford Clay, and showed that the gentle dip to the north would bring it into the required position; moreover, he had found indurated nodules of loam, resembling weathered Chillesford loam, in the base of the Norwich Crag at this locality. Mr. Fisher next noticed the occurrence of the same beds at Southwold, and stated that the well-known deposit from which the late Colonel Alexander obtained so many mammalian remains was the Mya-bed. The Norwich Crag is also seen in this neighbourhood at Wangford, differing in character from the Mya-bed, and resting on a loamy clay resembling, and probably identical with, the Chillesford Clay. The sequence of these beds is therefore in descending order: (1) Norwich Crag; (2) Chillesford Clay; (3) Mya-bed; (4) Red Crag.

The following specimens were exhibited: A collection of Newer Pliocene Fossils from Chillesford and Aldborough, Suffolk, exhibited by the Rev. O. Fisher. Impressions and Crystals of Selenite from the Woolwich Beds and London Clay, exhibited by Dr. P. Martin Duncan. A very fine specimen of a species of *Lepidodus*, from the Wealden Beds at Sevenoaks, exhibited by Mr. A. Bott. Minerals from the North Highlands, exhibited by Mr. G. E. Roberts. Devonian Corals from Poland, presented by Sir R. I. Murchison. Specimens of Cannel Coal from New South Wales, presented by the Rev. W. B. Clark.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.—Nov. 16.—Mr. Ouvry, treasurer, in the chair. The first meeting of the session was numerously attended. A letter of thanks from the Emperor of the French, for his election as a Royal Fellow, was read. A letter was read from the committee of the National Portrait Exhibition, requesting to be informed of places not generally known where one or more portraits of national interest are to be found. Valuable presents to the library from Mr. J. W. King Eyton, Mr. Albert Way, and others, were acknowledged. A report from Mr. P. R. Hutchinson, local secretary, on "Antiquities in and near Sidmouth," was handed round the room. A letter from Mr. Frere, son of Sergeant Frere, editor of the fifth volume of the "Paston Letters," was read, detailing the circumstances of the recent re-discovery of the originals, as already announced in THE READER. The matter seems simple enough. Sergeant Frere put them away in a box, and upon opening the box, they were found there. Mr. John Evans, F.R.S., read a paper "On Some Recent Discoveries of Worked Flints at Pressigny-le-Grand," and exhibited specimens. Mr. Ashpitel exhibited a large and heavy bronze vessel, which Mr. Alfred White judged was a measure, but the director, Mr. Franks, maintained to be a mortar. Upon the whole, we incline to the mortar theory.

November 23.—Sir J. P. Boileau in the chair. Special thanks were given for a present of pamphlets by Mr. W. J. Thoms.

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—Mr. S. Sharp exhibited a winged Scarabæus, and Mr. Ouvry some flint arrow-heads from Aberdeenshire.—Dr. Thurnam contributed a paper on the "Long Barrow Type of Flint Arrow-heads."—Mr. Lewin read a paper on the Portus Lemanis, which he proposes to identify with Hythe, instead of placing it at the foot of Lymne Hill. His principal arguments are from the absence of Roman maritime remains, or of any trace of an important and populous settlement, such as would naturally surround a port at the last-mentioned spot, and their presence at Hythe; and from the fact that, by the levels, if the Portus Lemanis were at Lymne Hill, all Romney Marsh and Hythe must have been under water, whereas we find abundant traces of Roman occupation there.—Mr. Black said, if he were allowed a quarter of an hour, he could refute the whole of Mr. Lewin's paper; but as the evening was far advanced, his refutation had to be postponed.—Mr. Ferrey then drew attention to a proposed removal of the ancient stone screen from Christchurch Priory Church, in Hampshire, which he deprecated, on grounds both archaeological and architectural. He said that the removal was contemplated with a ritualistic object. If this be so, it is much to be regretted, for the revival of ritualism should be conservative, and not destructive.—The society agreed to a resolution deprecating the destruction, if not absolutely necessary, of a valuable specimen of ancient architecture, and leaving it to the Council to act in the matter as they thought best.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY.—Nov. 16.—A paper "On Nitro-Compounds (Part II.), with Remarks on Isomerism," by Edmund J. Mills, D.S., was read. The author's communication must be taken as supplementary to a previous account, in which the constitution and properties of nitro-compounds were stated to be dependent upon one or other of two nitryls which were supposed to exist, and which could be distinguished by the facility with which they suffered reduction to nitric oxide or amidogen, under the influence of deoxidizing agents. The present communication was devoted to the description of α and β dinitrobenzoic acid, and a few similar compounds, the behaviour of which with hydriodic acid and nitro-sulphuric acid was considered as warranting the assertion that the energy of the chemical reaction at the moment of transfer of the nitryl radical confers upon it special functions, which may account for the differences observed in the isomers—a statement which implies the reception of a dynamic theory instead of the statical view of the arrangement of atoms in a compound molecule, which has hitherto been received with favour. The suggestions advanced by the author were contested by Dr. Hugo Müller, Professor G. C. Foster, and to some extent by Dr. Odling.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL.—Nov. 22.—Mr. Nathaniel Gould, V.-P., in the chair. A bronze figure of Mercury was exhibited, found at the lately-discovered Roman house at Gurnard's Bay, in the Isle of Wight, with some leaden seals, which the exhibitor, the Rev. E. Kell, considered also Roman. Mr. Thomas Wright concurred for the most part in the opinion of Mr. Kell, but observed upon the difficulty of deciding as to the age of the lead seals, which might be much later. Mr. G. M. Hills thought that some of the seals had mediæval coats of arms upon them.

The Rev. Mr. Kell read a paper "On a Collection of about 140 Coins, Roman or Græco-Roman, obtained by the late Mr. Drayson, in Various Parts of Hampshire and the Borders of Sussex." He observed particularly on the prevalence of the Greek coins at one place in the Isle of Wight, and argued on the probability of that island having been the place of embarkation in Roman times for the traffic of Greek merchants engaged in the tin trade.

Mr. Edward Leven exhibited a diminutive Florentine MS.—a book of prayer, beautifully illuminated, only three quarters of an inch square, containing 138 leaves; Mr. Thomas Wright, a bronze Grecian vase.

Mr. Syer Cumming read an interesting paper, suggested by the cattle murrain, "On Ancient Superstitions Respecting Cattle Disease."

Mr. G. M. Hills read a paper "On Croxden Abbey and its Chronicle." Sir Oswald Mosley laid before the association a valuable set of drawings of that monastery, and Mr. Hills was enabled, by means of the ancient chronicle of the abbey, now in the British Museum, to exhibit a restoration of its arrangements, and to give a complete history of it.

LONDON MATHEMATICAL.—Nov. 27.—The President, Professor De Morgan, in the chair. The Rev. Robert Harley, F.R.S., read a paper on "Differential Resolvents." He showed to the society a new method of solving a large class of linear differential equations, which originate in trinomial algebraic equations, by means of the separation of symbols. This method deals with linear differential equations having variable coefficients, and is therefore an advance upon a method discovered fifty years ago, which was only applicable to constant coefficients. The subject had engaged the attention of Professor Boole shortly before his death. Several subjects were then discussed. The President gave a proof (which had been shown to him before) of the 47th Prop. of 1st Book of Euclid, without the aid of the definition of a parallelogram. He also asked if any proof could be given that every function of x has a root.—Dr. Hirst made some remarks on a formula (due to Casey) which expresses the equation to a circle touching any three circles in terms of the equations to those circles; after which the meeting broke up.

MEETINGS FOR NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY.

ASIATIC.—"On the Indo-Chinese Alphabets," Dr. A. Bastian.

TUESDAY.

ANGLO-BIBLICAL, 7.—"On the Use of the Words $\delta\iota\alpha\beta\omicron\lambda\omicron\varsigma$ and $\Sigma\alpha\rho\alpha\nu\alpha\varsigma$ in the Christian Scriptures," Mr. W. H. Glack.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL, 8.—"On Permanence of Anthropological Type in the West of England," Dr. John Beddoe; "Cannibalism in Europe," Dr. R. S. Charnock.

ENGINEERS, 8.—Discussion upon Sir Charles Bright's paper, "The Telegraph to India, and its Extension to Australia and China."

WEDNESDAY.

GEOLOGICAL, 8.—"On the Western Limit of the Rhætic Beds in South Wales, &c.," Mr. E. B. Tawney; "Notes on a Section of the Lower Lias and Rhætic Beds near Wells, Somerset," Rev. P. B. Brodie.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.—"On the Graphotype, a Process for Producing from Drawings Blocks for Surface Printing," Mr. Henry Fitz-Cook.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL, 8.30.—"On the Paintings at Lumley," Mr. J. R. Planché.

THURSDAY.

CHEMICAL, 8.—"On Pyrophospho-triamic Acid," Dr. Gladstone.

ART.

WORCESTER POTTERY.

A Century of Potting in the City of Worcester: Being the History of the Royal Porcelain Works from 1751 to 1851. By R. W. Binns, F.S.A. (Bernard Quaritch.)

IN the eyes of connoisseurs, Worcester porcelain has been defunct, and for a time sufficiently long to admit of history being dispassionate. The best productions of its best period are admitted to the rank of curious and rare things, thanks to the almost entire absence of any important modern substitute. Many a collector will be grateful for this book; but it must be confessed the curious reader will long for detail which the author is unable to afford. He will look in vain for any account of the early struggles of the founders of the manufacture; that which makes Bernard Palissy's history not only interesting, but a perpetual lesson to the world of persevering enterprise. The loss of the Company's records has left local history and public records to furnish but a scanty amount of important facts; still, from what is given, the cause of the decline of the manufacture may be gathered, though the receipt may be as well known now as ever it was, and there be no doubt of the excellence of the material of the old ware. Dr. Wall's taste led him, says the author, to take the Chinese fabric as the material for his model; and Oriental patterns in design and colour naturally followed. This was, doubtless, the foundation of his success, as it must be of any one ambitious of attaining a high place in this class of manufacture; involving its own peculiar laws of art. Soon, however, the introduction of transfer printing—the invention of which the author, singularly enough, claims for Worcester as an honourable distinction—led, as it needs must, to the substitution of the skilful workman for the individual artist, with his individual and proper endowments, which have given value to the commonest ware. Then comes one more blow to complete the work of the decline. The taste of the general public is met, instead of being guided and improved, as fresh capitalists come in, eager to increase trade; and that which was the admiration of the artist falls into the rank of what the public is pleased to content itself with, as nice, pretty, chaste, elegant.

In the Exhibition of 1862 did the artist stop to admire in English production anything more than a successful colour or an accurate and trim piece of mechanical work? He wandered about

weary in search of evidence of the survival of the true principles of art. An obscure maker in the Hungarian department of the Austrian Court was more haunted and pressed with orders than many a Royal manufacturer. A white-ware service by a Limousin found the taste of the instructed public true again. Noble patrons in abundance, and orders requiring years to execute, were his reward. Further on, in the French Court, interesting imitations of Faenza were told the same story of a public greedy of purchasing, but not satisfied, and not satisfied to this day. Surely any individual who, having the proper artistic qualities, will study the Oriental models in detail of form and colour, being possessed of the proper manufacturing resources, may in England, nay, in Europe, reach a high place in reputation and wealth. Is not this being verified by a well-known company of artists combined for the production of kindred objects, in which art and manufacture are united?

It must be a considerable gratification for the painter to find his work so appreciated as to deserve a journey to another hemisphere to satisfy the lover of art, which the absorbing pursuits of the gold-fields cannot quench; of the sculptor who can draw travellers, as at Frankfort, from long distances to see one single work dignified almost with a staff of guides and attendants. Porcelain need not despair. Sentiment is aroused when it is remembered that a Worcester teacup of the best period may have a destiny not far short of the picture and the statue. Having fulfilled a long course of social duties in very good society, it may have an historian, be dusted by fair hands, and find its apotheosis in the velvet-lined curiosity-case of the collector, with the chance of an occasional excursion to the Elysian fields of a local museum. "Worcester Potting" is a valuable addition to the history of art manufacture in England—a history which bids fair to be unusually voluminous. The type and style of the book prove that the publisher knows how to second the efforts of the author.

THE EXHIBITION OF THE WATER COLOUR SOCIETY.

THOSE who fully appreciate the freshness and dexterous manipulation of sketches will be glad to hear that the winter exhibition of the old Water Colour Society is now open. Water colour paintings are perhaps more universally popular than those in oil, and for sketches the lighter material is certainly pre-eminent; it has a crispness, freedom, and delicacy, that can only with difficulty be rivalled in oil; while want of force and finish seems not only excusable, but even appropriate to it.

This collection professes to be one only of sketches and studies; we have accordingly few finished works, and none of any great importance. The architectural studies are very numerous, and are, perhaps, of their kind the most masterly things in the room. We are glad to see that Mr. Nash has got to Canterbury; no one is better able to do justice to the exquisitely picturesque effect of the north side of the cathedral. When our artists run off to the Continent they have little idea what treasures they are leaving behind them. Mr. Nash's drawings are most admirable for their truth; they are, without being laboured too mechanically, perfect facsimiles of the places he represents. As much as is possible, they combine absolute truth with the charm of a masterly touch, and a keen zest for colour.

The "Interior of the Colosseum" (114), by G. H. Andrews, is more than an architectural sketch. It is a highly-finished and deeply impressive picture. We have never seen the solemnity, vastness, and solitude of the great Amphitheatre so effectively rendered. The colour of the moonlight is wonderfully true.

There are some capital architectural drawings by Burgess. "Chateau Fontaine Henri, near Caen" is extremely careful and elaborate. And the unfinished sketches of interiors of Holland are well worthy of study; but his sketches of Inver Cannich, Strathglass, and Glen Cannich (232), have the breadth and power of an old master. And the little bits of colour in the frame numbered 274 are broad and sparkling, fresh and true.

The works of G. P. Boyce show varied power, and very valuable artistic qualities. They have all the force of local colour we see in nature on a dull day, and occasionally they approach the limpid and luminous effect of the early Flemish school. There is, perhaps, a want of air and motion about his landscapes. A head by him (387) is extremely fine, and promises a success in higher walks than the simple imitation of

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nature. We cannot specify the landscapes. No one need be told that those of George Dodgson are rich, transparent, sunny, and soft; that the sketches of Callow are forcible and well composed; or that the autumnal glow of the pictures by Branwhite is deep, rich, and mellow; that the works of Whittaker are dexterous, fresh, and forcible, and those of A. Hunt careful and refined. No. 258, "Sorrento," by Paul Naftel, is a very correct transcript of one of the most beautiful scenes in Italy, but very opaque in colour. We see in another frame, by the same artist, two sketches, one in transparent, the other in opaque colour. We should have thought that the effect of No. 258 would have rendered any further experiment unnecessary.

No. 54, "Interior of a Highland Cottage, Braemar, Aberdeenshire," by T. M. Richardson, shows the most extraordinary force, facility, and truth. Nothing could exceed the dexterous power of its execution. It is, besides, a very agreeable picture. Carl Haag sends studies of banditti, and picturesque figures, all admirable in their way. In No. 50, however, the blood-red edge to the rather opaque shadow on the face of the "Brigand on Guard" is neither agreeable nor true. The shadow on the pulpy and sunlit cheek of a woman will sometimes glow with carnation, but its edges, if we mistake not, are grey.

Mr. Gilbert sends two forcibly painted heads, and a dramatic scene, which is treated with considerable power; and we have four studies by Mr. Birket Foster of village children, very pretty, dexterous and true.

We are much disappointed in seeing nothing in colour by that very promising colourist, Mr. Burne Jones. There is a sketch in chalk of a decorative picture of the "Hours—Waking, Dressing, Spinning, Feasting, Playing, Sleeping," which reminds us of the seated figures by Filippo Lippi in our National Gallery; they are, however, a little short and big-headed. Mr. Jones also sends several drawings of that type of female face so much in vogue in a certain clique. They are very tender, simple, and broad; they have the full lips, the low brow, and the massive cheeks that give a grand, but rather sensual character to these heads. To tell the truth, we are getting a little tired of this type of female beauty, however beautiful it may be, and we see with some dismay a mode of execution at once easy, soft and seductive; but perhaps, after all, such "pugilistic knobs" as that numbered 235 are a sort of protest and reaction against the sleek bandeaux, the sentimental curls, and the too effeminate features of the preceding styles; and if so, the harder and sharper the shower the sooner will it be over, and the natural balance restored. It is, however, a very remarkable fact that this type of face is a characteristic of those artists who live in the western districts of London. Man is a gregarious animal, partly because he loves society, but chiefly, we suspect, because of the rarity of ideas; directly one is turned up the fortunate finder is surrounded by the whole herd, and each carries off a bit. In this way a herd will often live a long time on one idea; and it gives such a decided flavour to the meat that a connoisseur will be able to tell on what pastures it was fed, whether on the sunny slopes of Kensington, or the older sheepwalks of Marylebone. But with all the mannerism and pretension of the West End school, we heartily wish for a larger infusion of it into our water-colour societies, for it has a vigour and a vitality that are much wanted here. For dexterity and neatness, for prettiness, and even for conscientious study, our water-colour exhibitions are all that can be wished. We have very beautiful transcripts of nature, very admirable little bits of composition, very dexterous and effective sketches, but we cannot help feeling that there is a great want of imagination and of intellectual power. We never come away from a water-colour exhibition without feeling (it may be a little ungrateful to say so) that the feast they had provided for us was a little insipid. Their dishes are exquisitely prepared, but are wanting in flavour; and their wines, though agreeable to the taste, are too much diluted with their favourite medium.

The pencil sketches of H. B. Willis are wonderfully neat, and for the picturesque treatment of cattle they are all that can be wished; but regarded as serious drawings they are defective in knowledge and power. If Mr. Willis would model a head or two of a horse or a cow, he would acquire a more thorough knowledge of all their detail, and a larger and more intelligent style of rendering it, than if he multiplied such sketches a thousand-fold.

There is, besides, a whole host of exquisitely beautiful landscapes, bits of old buildings crumbling and grey, fresh sea pieces, and picturesque groups of peasants, or of sportsmen in antique dresses, but it is hardly possible to enumerate all these; besides, those who are likely to go to a water-colour exhibition know what they are going to see a great deal better than we could tell them.

THE BRISTOL EXHIBITION.

A WINTER EXHIBITION of pictures, chiefly water-colours, has been opened at the Fine Arts Academy, Clifton, Bristol. It is the first that has been held there at this time of the year, the Bristol Exhibitions generally taking place in the summer, and being then but indifferently supported. Among the chief contributors are J. Syer, S. P. Jackson, C. P. Knight, Branwhite, T. L. Rowbotham, G. Wolfe, T. S. Cooper, E. Walton, and C. Vacher.

Mr. Jackson sends a picture utterly different in treatment and style from that work of his which was one of the great attractions of the last Exhibition of the Society of Painters in Water-colours—we mean that weird churchyard scene, with the just-breaking moonlight and the ghost-like trees, the churchyard of Gray's Elegy. The picture shown at Bristol is of a "Storm on Trebarwith Strand." They are steep crags, and ledges of rocks over which the waves are dashing. The sea is beaten into surf as it strikes the shore; and the mass of water rolls down again, till it is stopped by the wave that next approaches. The clouds are low, heavy, and swollen with rain. Sea-gulls seek rest on some edge or tongue of land; others, still flying, are beaten about in the blustering wind. This is a most truthful picture. Mr. Jackson has done more finished work, but rarely with better effect.

T. L. Rowbotham has three studies "In the Bay of Naples," very delicate and refined.

Mr. C. Vacher infuses into his pictures of the South that "brooding heat" of which some artists—even those who are too profuse of colour—seem to have little conception. To this Exhibition he sends a wonderful landscape in the "Campagna di Roma." There are the ruined arches and the heaps of stones, and the long stretch of country bounded by the violet-blue hills—

With feathery grasses everywhere,
Silence and passion, joy and peace,
An everlasting wash of air,
Rome's ghost, since her decease.

In one or two of his works Mr. Walton would appear to have imitated one of the vices—if we may so speak—of a very clever artist, J. B. Pyne. He occasionally strains for the most bizarre chromatic effects, in a way quite unworthy of him. Mr. Walton's best picture is "Peaks" (seen from above St. Christophe, Dauphiné). The most truthful, though perhaps not, at first sight, the most striking bits of the work, are the little edge of rock jutting out, snow-sprinkled, and the mists over the fir-trees, low on the hill-side.

Gambier Parry has an admirable sketch, "Near Mentone," where a slim thread of water trickles rather than falls over the dark rocks.

Mr. Wolfe's most noteworthy contribution is "Llanstephan Castle," a poetical picture, but scarcely an improvement on "The Message from the Sea," shown at the Suffolk Street Exhibition last spring.

Mr. Branwhite has a large work, "An Autumnal Evening," a broad stream and many-tinted woods.

ART NOTES.

WE are always pleased to see anything that breaks the monotonous sky line of the West End of London, so different in this respect from the City, where the genius of Sir Christopher Wren has grouped spires and domes with the consummate knowledge of a master of effect. Perhaps in his days our fogs had not acquired their modern denseness—a denseness which seems to have weighed on the spirits of subsequent architects, who despaired, perhaps, of penetrating it. To the south of Buckingham Palace, and rising from the purlieus that surround the vast brewery of the Elliotts, may be seen the thin and lofty tower of a new church, or rather of an old one new revived. It is in the bastard Romanesque style of architecture, and, though far from perfect, is a pleasing relief from the interminable Gothic of the present day.

THE effect of Mr. Armitage's portrait of Benozzo Gozzoli, in the Kensington Museum, confirms all that we said against the use of

mosaic for the proposed decorations. Not only does the almost brocaded richness of its surface give a mean appearance to the painted plaster which surrounds it, but its glitter is even more distracting than the gold backgrounds which in the original pointings are intended to imitate it. Mosaic composed of glazed tesserae should only be used in places where there is no reflection from the windows. From a neglect of this rule, this portrait has the effect of a person standing. In front of a glaring light, we cannot distinguish the features or any of its detail. If it was actually necessary to use mosaic in such places, it should be of the same character as that in St. Peter's at Rome, which is composed of stone tesserae, the surface being afterwards ground down to an even face, but not polished. But glazed tesserae are never well adapted for rendering advanced art; with barbaric work its glitter is more in harmony, and if its partial reflections obscure parts of a picture, its mystery (one of the chief charms of early art) is only thereby increased. But even in the earliest periods the use of this sort of decoration was controlled by the greatest wisdom, and the shapes best adapted for its display were chosen with unerring judgment, as the domical apses of the early basilicas, and the ends of buildings lighted from the sides. The south court at the Kensington Museum seems in a remarkable way to combine all the conditions under which mosaic should not be used. The portrait of Benozzo Gozzoli, as far as we can judge, appears to be treated in a broad and simple manner, but we cannot divest ourselves of the idea that it is an old woman carrying a "Scaldino." We understand that it is proposed to fill one of the lunettes with a copy of Raffaele's "School of Athens." If this should prove at all worthy of the original it will be a great acquisition.

MUSIC.

MENDELSSOHN.

WHILST waiting for the life of Mendelssohn, which is understood to be in preparation by his son, such an anecdote as the following cannot fail to be welcome. It appeared originally in a recent number of the *Cartenlaube*, with the signature "Sch. B." and has all the air of being authentic:—

"The object of these lines is not to speak of Mendelssohn as a composer, but to preserve from oblivion a little passage in his life; and thus to lay a late though not unavailing garland on his grave. It was in the hot summer of 1842 that he arrived at Zurich on his way from the Alps. No sooner was his name announced in the *Tageblatt* than his hotel was besieged by a crowd of the most prominent musicians and amateurs of Zurich, eager to invite him to their houses. To all, however, he returned a courteous but firm refusal. The object of his journey to Switzerland was the restoration of his health, already severely menaced; and the physicians had absolutely forbidden him all exertion or excitement. Amongst his visitors was the director of the Blind Asylum, who represented to him that some of the patients of that institution were remarkable for their musical talent, and that their songs and choruses had been received with much favour by the public; but that he was anxious for the opinion of a really competent musician, both on the abilities and the performance of his pupils. 'I have refused all other invitations,' said Mendelssohn, 'but to your blind people I will come.' And come he did. The spectacle of the sightless assembly struck him, and he addressed them in the kindest terms. Some of their compositions were then performed. Score in hand, he listened, evidently interested and touched. He was especially pleased by a chorus of more pretension than the rest. He said something in its praise, particularly commending certain passages, and then told the director that there was no doubt as to the ability of the writer—that he hoped he would go on working, and compose to words of more importance. Seeing a correction in the score, he asked whose it was: and on being told, said, laughing and in the kindest way, 'The alteration is quite right, and makes the passage more strictly correct, but it was better and more striking before; and then, turning to the blind man, he said 'Take care that your corrections are always improvements—a cultivated ear wants no rules, but is its own rule and measure.' At length, to complete the delight of the party—not one of whom had had the courage to ask

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such a favour—he himself begged permission to play them something on the piano. He sat down, and played one of those wonderful free fantasias of his, with which he used so often to enchant his friends. Imagine how the countenances of his blind hearers lighted up, when in the midst of the piece they heard him introduce the chief subject of the chorus they had just been singing! We could all of us have taken him in our arms and pressed him to our hearts! He took his leave with the warmest wishes for the success of the institution and the prosperity of the patients. None of us ever met him again, and in a few years he was removed by death; but he lives, and will live, in his splendid works, no less than in the memory and affection of those who saw and heard him.

The blind man to whom he spoke so kindly is still an inmate of the asylum. He has preserved the chair which the composer used, as a precious relic; and calls it 'the Mendelssohn chair.'

THE ENGLISH OPERA

THE "Africaine," we are glad to see, continues to fill Covent Garden Theatre five or six nights in the week. The only drawback to this arrangement is that, as no single set of singers could stand the strain of such severe work, certain parts have to be occasionally given to artists who are confessedly not equal to their tasks. Taken, however, at its best—that is, on the nights when Miss Pyne, Madame Sherrington, and Mr. Adams appear—the performance given by the "Company" is magnificent. It would be difficult to say too much of the beauty of Madame Sherrington's singing in the opening romance and in other places. Such a union of the loveliest, purest tone with consummate finish of execution has been very rarely heard. The appearance of two such sopranis of twin talents as this lady and Miss Pyne in one opera is a phenomenon almost without a parallel. Occasionally there may have been heard a *Norma* and *Adalgisa* whose duet singing might have compared with that of our English *Selika* and *Inez*, but we can remember nothing which has approached it. About the same may be said of the performance taken as a whole. It is by far the best achievement which "English" opera has to show. Some people think it a pity, no doubt, that the genius of Meyerbeer dropped upon this world, in the longitude of Berlin instead of that of Greenwich, but we cannot see that the fact is of much importance. English composers may be quite sure that when the divine gift appears among them it will be just as widely recognized. For the present their countrymen seem to have come to the conclusion that their music is not so well worth hearing as that of Auber and Meyerbeer. There is nothing insulting in this conclusion, for it is no disgrace not to be an immortal genius.

MUSICAL NOTES.

THE Crystal Palace Saturday Concerts are going on with all their usual spirit. They are so good that we can only reiterate, for the benefit of such as may not have proved the fact by experience, that they constitute, as a whole, the best music to be heard in or about London. As an example of how a symphony should be done, the playing of Beethoven "No. 7" last Saturday might have been a lesson to any band we ever heard in England. The one or two points in which it fell short of perfection were those due to the deficiencies which have yet to be made up in the orchestra. The rest of the concert was, as it happened, not so well arranged as usual. Not to speak of some bad (mixed with some very good) singing, there was played a monstrous *fantasia* on a Scotch tune, for orchestra with piano, written and played by a composer of ability, who ought to know better than to waste his time in making a farrago of ugliness out of an innocent old popular melody. The excuse would probably be that "that other public" likes such things; but, happily, "that other public" does not come much to the Saturday Concerts.

THE Church of St. Andrew, Wells Street, celebrated the anniversary of its patron saint on Thursday, by a grand performance of M. Gounod's "St. Cecilia" service. The same work was performed at this annual festival of St. Cecilia in the Church of St. Eustace, in Paris, on Tuesday, by 400 or more singers and players. For this festival M. Gounod had composed a "Hymn" to the saint, written for violin solo, with wind, harp, and drum accompaniments. It is spoken of as a most lovely piece, and may possibly, we understand,

be heard shortly at one of the Crystal Palace concerts.

THE project of the Concordia Society to hold choral meetings for the rehearsal of unfamiliar masterpieces has taken practical shape. It is announced that a series of such practices is to begin forthwith. They are to be held on Thursday evenings in Exeter Hall, and Mr. Volckmann is to be the conductor. The plan is an excellent one, and deserves the hearty support of all who care about great music. The announcement invites the co-operation of competent amateurs.

THE Sacred Harmonic and National Choral Societies each had a concert this week, the first repeating the "Lobgesang" and "Requiem," and the latter giving the "Creation." Each evening gave abundant illustrations of the faults and merits of the two bodies, of which we need say no more at present. Mr. Leigh Wilson, the new tenor, showed in the "Creation" that he was not so much at home in the music of the older vocal school as in that of Mendelssohn. He has some things to learn, some to unlearn. But even as it is, his singing has much real charm, and it rests with himself to make it irreproachable.

THE DRAMA.

MODERN CABINET PLAYS.

Alfred. A Patriotic Play in Five Acts. By Martin F. Tupper. (Manchester: Kelly.)—*Cræsus*, *King of Lydia*. A Tragedy in Five Acts. By Lieut.-Colonel Richards. (Longmans.)—*Alfieri*. A Drama in Five Acts. (Skeet.)—*Prometheus*, the Fire-Bringer. By R. H. Horne. (Edinburgh: Edmonston.)

IN taking up for perusal a "book of the play" which you have seen at some time rendered on the stage, it is not unusual to follow with particular interest the representations of the several characters, and to assume to yourself the ability to say how much better the effect would have been if the leading actor had been rescued from the ocean dripping wet, or if the leading actress had in the famous soliloquy laid a little more emphasis on the "'tis" by removing some of it from off the "so," or anything else that may fall under your discrimination. You may even work yourself into a by no means uncommon kind of enthusiasm—that of an unsuccessful dramatist—and enjoy the conviction that there is more fish in the sea of dramatic authorship than was ever hooked from it. You may probably go further, and lose yourself altogether in fathoming the mysteries of managership, and finally fail to understand how the weak points which your intelligence has brought under your notice should have escaped the "pupil" of an experienced manager's eye.

But when you take up "books of the play" which you have never seen represented on the stage, and which, if they could speak, would pray for "footlights," it is pretty certain that none of the vanities you might indulge in in the former case are likely to distract your thinking brain, or turn your milk of human kindness. You can start, at least, with a clear head. You can, if you please, imagine yourself a manager. You can also, if you think proper, and can do so, inspire yourself with the belief that you have all the critical judgment of such a distinguished person. And you can, in addition, fancy that the plays you are sitting down to read are only four out of the many dramatic "pearls" which are lying in your managerial swinery. If, after a careful perusal of each, and under such circumstances, you are not able to decide on their fitness to hold a place on the "boards," or in a library of dead works, the labours of the authors will have been thrown away.

The first, "*Alfred*" (one proverbial philosopher written up by another), unlike his companions "*Cræsus*," "*Alfieri*," and "*Prometheus*," has made his *début* before the public. At a minor theatre in Manchester Mr. Tupper's play was presented for the first time, but, whether on account of the cotton crisis, or of a deficiency of taste in a Manchester audience, it was not successful. As an acting play it is weak, everything being left to the scene-painter, the costumier, and the musical conductor; and the language being either clatrapish or rapid, as a cabinet play it is almost as unfortunate. The time of action occupying, as it is said, only "a few days," the suddenness of the conversion of *Guthrom*, as drawn by Mr. Tupper, from a bullying prize-fighter to an abject Scripture-reader, becomes painfully ludicrous and unlikely. Yet, by a published note in the copy before us,

it is declared "it is just a thousand years since all that is here set before our eyes in the theatre actually happened in life as we see it!" We can only say that it is a bold assertion of Mr. Tupper.

In the tragedy of "*Cræsus*," Colonel Richards (who is, perhaps, better known to the literary world as Alfred Bate Richards) has displayed considerable power and grace as a poet, and a thorough appreciation of what is known as stage effect. While it is too lengthy a work, in its present form, for the purposes of a theatre, there is the material for a magnificent and stirring spectacle. The language with which it is clothed gives to it an importance which few plays of modern authors possess. Viewed as a cabinet dramatic poem, it is a charming production. The tragedy is founded upon a story to be met with in the chapters of Herodotus, of which a translation by Laurent is appended to the book. *Glaucus's* description of *Arienis*, the author's invented daughter of *Cræsus*, is perhaps, one of the sweetest imageries to be met with in modern poetic diction, but it smacks very much of *Master Walter's* adulation of *Julia* to *Sir Thomas Clifford* in the "*Hunchback*."

"*Alfieri*" wants consistency. It contains a series of melodramatic scenes clumsily put together. It is a disappointing work. The writing aims at a high standard, but it drops short at times when you are willing to be carried away with it. In the hands of a master of stage action the drama might be so arranged as to make it presentable to a theatre audience.

After a long absence, Mr. R. H. Horne again appears in the world of poetry. "*Prometheus*" is the only offering of the kind that he has given to us since the period at which he left England for Australia, now as many as thirteen years back. Mr. Horne begins with an apology. He asks pardon for errors which in his lyrical drama he may have committed, and when he tells us that it was composed "in savage solitude, without books, without any society, amidst horseaccidents, the fall of massive trees, and the evil chances of dark nights in localities abounding in water-holes and deep mining shafts in unexpected places, always left quite unprotected"—criticism must be disarmed.

There are certainly very many touches which require to be made clear.

We do not understand what is meant by *Aphrodite*, in addressing a body of shipwrecked mariners:—

But wherefore came you here?
Or by what chance?
If you know clearly
Speak it not too plain.

It seems to be very odd advice to give by a person who is seeking information, but the advice is followed out in a remarkable manner, and is sufficiently unintelligible to induce *Aphrodite* to ask—

No more.

The celebrated Mr. Artemus Ward, we find, is not singular in one of his favourite expressions, for here we have:—

Before our eyes
New demi-gods had birth,
Which from the saffron robes
Of Eos' breast came forth!
And then the sun glode down.

A curious sub-chorus of Oceanides recites:—

The fangs may rend,
The hailstorm freeze;
He will endure for future fruit,
And, silent as
The growth of trees,
Believe in sunlight and a root!

Perhaps our readers will be able to turn over in their minds the probable meaning intended to be conveyed by the daughters of Oceanus. We will not attempt it.

DRAMATIC NOTES.

NEXT week Mr. J. L. Toole, the comedian, goes to the new theatre, Edinburgh, for a fortnight, where he will conclude a long series of provincial engagements. He may be welcomed. He will return to the Adelphi at Christmas. In Manchester and Liverpool he has been doing the somewhat novel feat of performing in one town in the afternoon and in the other in the evening. This reminds us of Mr. John Brougham's famous American effort, when he acted in the first piece in New York, and flew by car, ferry, rail, and car again, to Philadelphia, over a hundred miles away, to play in the last piece on the same night.

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